

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

VOLUME XVIII NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 1999

MARYLAND VBOB MEMORIAL DEDICATED

BOY IT WAS HOT!



30 May 1999, Ft. George G. Meade, MD

The dedication by the Maryland/District of Columbia Chapter of VBOB of a Battle of the Bulge Memorial was held in the Garden of Remembrance at Ft. Meade Army Museum. Dorothy Davis, Executive Officer of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, and Neil Thompson, Charter member of the VBOB applaud as the impressive memorial is unveiled. Sidney Lawrence, President of the MD/DC Chapter inspects the back of the stone.

More than 250 veterans, foreign diplomats, elected officials, and guests attend the dedication ceremony.

Ft. Meade, MD, May 30, 1999

Leave it to the Bulge Veterans to do things in extremes. From fighting in coldest, 10-20 degrees below weather over 54 years ago, to dedicating a monument in 92-96 degree weather on one of the hottest days so far this year. As true troopers, however, they sought the area of best cover and stuck to their post until after the ceremony was over.

It was a beautiful ceremony from the raising of the flag on that massive flag pole to the final echo sounds of taps in memory of all those who have passed. We had many dignitaries on hand and many proclamations to pay homage to each of you and what you did 54 years ago to preserve our way of life in that greatest of land battles, the Battle of the Bulge.

The flag-raising ceremony performed by members of the Ft. Meade MP Company was followed by the playing of the National Anthems of the countries of Belgium, Luxembourg, and the United States by the 389th US Army Band. Our Sergeant-at-Arms Vic Trapani lead us in our Pledge of Allegiance.

Among the dignitaries were the Ambassador of Belgium, Alec Reyn and the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Luxembourg, Carlo Krieger. Ambassador Reyn stated that though his country may compete with the United States in the economic market, Belgium is still grateful for American sacrifices during World War II. Mr. Krieger said, "Like northern Belgium, there are few villages in my country where you cannot find a monument dedicated to the American servicemen who did so much for us." He went on to say that, "Even today every Luxembourg citizen feels connected to America because of what American soldiers did in liberating our country twice from the Germans."

Other honored guests were Col. John D. Frketic who welcomed everyone to the Garrison at Ft. Meade and who was gracious to VBOB in offering the Ft. Meade location for the monument. The Commanding General Robert R. Ivany of the Military District of Washington, under which Ft. Meade is situated in the military chain of command, spoke of the

(Continued on Page 8)

**IT'S VBOB REUNION TIME
AT NEWPORT NEWS, VA**

Be There! *Page 10*

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President's Message

Reports coming in to National Headquarters, and to my desk at my home in Broomall, Pennsylvania, our 19th Annual Reunion in Newport News, Virginia, looks to be on a record-breaking pace as far as your attendance is concerned.

Our contacts at the Omni Hotel, our reunion headquarters for the weekend of Thursday evening, September 23rd, through our closing banquet, Sunday evening, September 26th, report that your reservations are flowing in. If you have been debating about coming, I hope you will make your decision soon, and send in your reservation so you will be with us for what promises to be an exciting long weekend.

Please take some time to look over the events listed elsewhere in this issue. I think you will like what you see. We have tried to assemble a schedule of events which will fit your tastes, and your wallet.

I am extremely excited about our military ceremony at historic Fort Monroe, Friday morning, September 24th, when we dedicate a new monument to the 600,000 American men and women who fought in our battle. Vice President for Military Affairs Stan Wojtusik has been working with noted monument designer Charles DeChristopher, who is donating a beautiful stone of Barre granite to be placed by the parade ground at the fort. There will be an impressive military ceremony for the dedication, followed by an informal luncheon at the Chamberlain Hotel nearby, plus an opportunity to tour the fort and the Casemate Museum on the grounds.

As I mentioned in my last report, our closing banquet, Sunday evening, September 26th, should be a memorable one, as we will welcome General John N. Abrams, CG of the Army's Training & Doctrine Command, as our keynote speaker. It will be great to welcome this fine combat leader, the son of a true Battle of the Bulge hero.

At the urging of my wife, Betty, we have made a special effort to add a number of attractions for our wives at this reunion. There will be an opportunity to explore the MacArthur Center Mall, the shops at Colonial Williamsburg's



George C. Linthicum

Merchants Square, and several other centers in the Newport News area. Share the Information Page with your wife, and I hope that it will overcome any reluctance to join us for the reunion. Assure them they won't have to listen to your war stories for four days.

One more reunion note: We are being joined at Newport News by our friends from the Belgian Fusiliers who will be making a tour of the U.S. They have booked a block of rooms at the Omni, and I know many of you will find Fusiliers from the areas where you have memories of your combat experiences.

And, we'll also be joined by a detachment of World War II reenactors who have been very helpful in making arrangements for the reunion, and are very interested in hearing about your WW II personal histories.

Moving along, I just want to mention that our membership continues to grow, and I am proud to report that thanks to the efforts of Dick Schlenker, VP of Chapters and Regions, and Pete Leslie, we have added three new chapters and now have reached 60 chapters. (We also have a Petition for Charter from the South Jersey Chapter which will be acted upon at the July 21st Executive Council Meeting. This will make 61.)

Please join me in welcoming the new chapters and their members: Chapter 58--the Cape Cod & The Islands Chapter based in Hyannis, Massachusetts, with Alexander MacIsaac as president; Chapter 59--the Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter, based in Goshen, New York, with Herbert Goodwin as president; and Chapter 60--the Fort Dix Chapter, in New Jersey, with Frank DeSeo as president. The Fort Dix Chapter meets at the fort--a post familiar to many of our members.

Dick and Peter report that they have received queries from other prospective areas, with the probability that we will soon be adding more chapters, and more members to our great organization.

It seems to me that as the ranks of World War II veterans dwindles down, those remaining are turning more and more to the days of the past, and there is more thinking about their participation in battles like we fought in the Ardennes. I hope that you will take advantage of every opportunity to let them know about the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and enlist them in our ranks. I know they will get the same satisfaction that you do in joining the veterans of the largest land battle fought by the U.S. Army. A battle fought and won against tremendous odds--a real Triumph of Courage. And you were there!

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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

FLAG PRESENTED

Theresa Stahl, of Defiance, Ohio, donated the flag which draped her husband's coffin to St. Mary's Catholic School, which she had attended as a young girl. Theresa had noticed that the flag flying at the school was becoming faded and she felt that the flag in her possession could serve a very good purpose.

She spoke to both 5th and 6th graders and formally presented the flag to the principal. Then, they all went out and raised the flag to half staff. At that point, they prayed for all who died in the Battle of the Bulge. Then, as the boy scouts raised the flag to full staff, they all prayed for those who are still living.

Theresa would like to hear from anyone who remembers her husband, PFC. ROY P. STAHL, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 394TH REGIMENT, COMPANY K, or was in his unit. You can write to her at: 221 West Rosewood Avenue #45, Defiance, Ohio 43512-3447. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

I read the latest issue today and was sure glad that I did. I was reading a couple of the escapades that happened during the Bulge and that reminded me of one that I think is worth mentioning.

We had a guy named Manuel Pavao in Company D of our 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion. I do believe that he was of Portuguese extraction but I am not sure. We had been somewhat stagnant for a period of time in the Hurtgen Forest which, as you know was just before the Battle of the Bulge, but I think this yarn would qualify anyway.

Pavao dug a fox hole amongst the roots of the trees and was doing quite well in it, comparatively speaking. As time went on, however, he decided to make some improvements. First, he hooked a telephone line up to a switchboard a few hundred yards away and asked them to, when not needing the board for more important stuff, tune in to BBC. That provided music for him.

Next, he built a small ledge on one end of the fox hole with a small (very small) hearth on it and that gave him some heat. Of course, the smoke might have been a give away but since we were in 4.2" mortars, we were far enough behind the infantry that the Krauts would probably not see the smoke. As far as I know, they never did since we got no incoming mail at the times when he "fired up."

Next, some of us guys found out that we could light German light bulbs from the batteries in our SCR300 radios and he did that so now he also had light. Of course, he had already covered the fox hole because of air bursts. Now he has heat, music, and lights. He also wound up with running water but almost all of the fox holes there had that.

I have been on a quest with internet and other means to find Pavao but no luck yet.

R. Keith Ostrum
87 CHEM MTR BN D

NAGGING VOID FILLED

The intent of this note is to thank you for publishing my request for information about an important military event that occurred in the spring of 1944 at Plymouth, England.

The May 1999 request was made in an effort to fill a nagging voice about truth and the involvement of the 998th Quartermaster Salvage Collecting Company which assisted in evacuating the dead and wounded from crippled ships wallowing in a Plymouth, England, harbor. The vessels had been damaged in what was described to our company as a sneak allied invasion attempt of France, but in reality was a practice exercise identified as "Operation Tiger" on April 27-28, 1944, at Slapton Sands, up the coast from Plymouth.

The rapid response and information received from VBOB members is most impressive and greatly appreciated by my family and me. We desired more information about my role in that grim assignment which was veiled in total secrecy by a threat of court martial of anyone who might disclose information about the incident.

Thank you kindly for the consideration and space.

Hugh F. Semple, Sr.
998 QM SAL COL CO

COME BLOW YOUR HORN

First, I must extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you on the staff for the continued great work you are doing in keeping the memories alive--memories of those days we went through "way back when."

The May 1999 issue was especially interesting to me, in view of some of the "claims" made by several contributions to the "Letters to the Editor" segment. These letters, submitted on behalf of the writer's outfit during the Battle of the Bulge are understandably "self-serving" and certainly is as it should be. Everyone who did participate in any "which way" did participate. That is the important point--we were there. Each of us should be proud of the achievements of our outfit. To blow one's horn extolling these achievements is great and is as it should be. However, in blowing their horn, it is important that we do not try to minimize the efforts of our fellow GI and his outfit. We all shared in the struggle, sweat and tears--and we all shared in the end result.

The letter in the May issue by Edward M. Graffeo, reporting the

achievements of the 731st Field Artillery Battalion, was especially interesting to me. The record cited by Mr. Graffeo, i.e. the firing of 14,429 rounds in 15 days, is a noteworthy one and he should be proud of this achievement.

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to "blow my horn" on behalf of my outfit--the 955th Field Artillery Battalion. We, too, are proud of our achievements during the Battle of the Bulge especially. The "955" earned five battle stars after landing on Omaha Beach on June 17, 1944. We were assigned to V Corps and the First United States Army. The 955th provided fire assistance on an "as needed basis" to over 15 military units, including U.S. 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th and 29th Divisions--and in the liberation of Paris we were assigned to support the 2nd Free French Armored Division. It was during the Battle of the Bulge that the 955th really distinguished itself. During one 24-hour period, 28 missions were fired with a total of 2,054 rounds of ammunition expended. (The Stars and Strikes reported this feat at the time.)

Following is a portion of a commendation initiated by the 1st Infantry Division commending the support action provided by the 955th. [Appears elsewhere in this issue.]

Yes!! We are proud of our achievements too. Thank you for letting me blow my horn too.

Phil Melleno
955th FA BN

COVER AND DECEPTION

Just received the May issue of *The Bulge Bugle* and was interested in seeing the article "More on the Phantom" written by Kent S. Freeman of the 75th Infantry Division 290th Infantry Medical Battalion. Because the security classification on WWII cover and deception operations was not down-graded until the mid-70s very few people knew about them. Even the existence of a cover and deception unit was classified until then.

I served in the 603rd Engineer Camouflage Battalion and on the staff of the 23rd Headquarters, Special Troops, during the 20 cover and deception operations conducted in the ETO. I have completed an article describing the background leading up to the activation of the 23rd as well as its organization and capabilities. The article also describes three operations which illustrate tactical situation in which cover and deception operations were employed and how they were phased in and phased out.

The article will be published by *Command Magazine* in a couple of months.

With reference to Mr. Freeman's letter, some ten or twelve years ago at a VBOB reunion, a veteran of the 75th Infantry Division announced that a few members of the division were able to review German intelligence files. They were puzzled to find that, a week or so before the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, German intelligence placed the division at two locations at the same time. When I got the chance, I told him the reason for the two locations could possibly have been the result of a cover and deception operation.

During the early part of December 1944 the heavy fighting was in the Hurtgen Forest and around Schmidt. It was very quiet in the Ardennes and the divisions were stretched thin. The 4th Infantry Division was moved down from Hurtgen Forest to the southeast of Luxembourg City to lick its wounds and to receive replacements. It had suffered some 6,000 casualties.

In an effort to relieve the pressure up north, General Bradley decided to stage some activities in the Ardennes area to force some German units away from the Hurtgen area. It was planned by 12th Army Group to create the activity by a cover and deception operation. The 75th Infantry Division, currently in England and in the process of staging to the continent, was chosen for the deception. The overall plan was to move a fictitious 75th across France and Luxembourg to an assembly area behind the 4th Infantry Division. This was done by a division radio net transmitting planned spurious messages and vehicles with 75th Division bumper markings moving east. Within the 4th Division area, recons were conducted along with all the activities required to strongly indicate an offensive by the 75th to cross the Sure River and to move toward Koblenz.

Fourth Infantry Division troops were ecstatic since for once, they would sit one out and watch another outfit get roughed up. As it turned out, however, the day the deception operations was to phase out on 16 December, the Germans crashed through the thin American line to initiate the Battle of the Ardennes. When

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

it was learned that this was a major offensive by the German Army, soldiers of the 4th Division felt a little secure knowing that the 75th was right behind them. The security surrounding all cover and deception operations was so tight that even adjacent units were denied knowledge that such operations were taking place. Thus, unbeknownst to them the 75th behind them was fictitious. The real 75th Infantry Division was still staging on to the continent under cover and it didn't appear until six or seven days later up north where it was placed in reserve for a planned counter offensive by the 2nd and 3rd Armored and the 84th Infantry Divisions.

As Mr. Freeman stated there was some animosity by soldiers of the 4th toward the 75th. To them it appeared that as soon as it got hot the 75th took flight.

Tilly Kimes-Hansen: I was tickled pink when I read the article about her by John McAuliffe. I met Tilly and Roger every chance I could when in Europe. As Vera Lynn is the sweetheart of British soldiers, Lily Marlene the sweetheart of the German soldier, Tilly is certainly the sweet of American WWII veterans. The last time I saw Tilly was at the dedication ceremony of the GI Memorial in Clervaux. Clyde Boden, the founder and first president of VBOB, and I were present at the ceremony.

I was happy that Mr. McAuliffe talked some about the hardship that the Luxembourg and Belgium citizens suffered during the entire war and particularly during the Battle of the Bulge. They actually went through three invasions as well as suffering four years of oppressive occupation. Many veterans who return to Europe expect to be treated as heroes and certainly, I have no quarrel with that. However, some thought must be given to what these people had to go through. I'll never forget the look on a dirty and shabbily dressed seven-year-old girl's face when I gave her an orange. She had never seen one before. In Normandy, an eight-year-old boy lived in my foxhole—he hadn't seen his family since the day of the invasion.

I had the occasion to talk with Tilly and Roger about their lives during the occupation. As Mr. McAuliffe pointed out, Roger was conscripted into the German army and sent to the Russian front. He escaped from the army and over a three-month period he made his way back to Luxembourg. If written, the story of his escape and travel through Germany to his homeland would be a best seller.

Q. C. (Kipp) DeAngelis
23 HQ SP TRPS 603 ENGR CAMO BN

LET IT SNOW

After reading various accounts of the Battle of the Bulge, I find some discrepancies as to the day the weather cleared. Some accounts put it on December 23rd; others on the 24th; and some on the 25th. My own recollection is that it was on Christmas Day that the sun broke through and our planes came out in force. Who is officially correct? [Please write to VBOB—it will make interesting reading.]

Fred W. Klooster
75 INF 899 FA BN B

TABLE CLEARED TOO SOON

I read the article in *The Bugle* about the "Long Tom" 155 Field Artillery. I, too, have a story I would like to share.

On D-Day only two outfits landed. The two were the 980th and the 981st. I belonged to the 981st. We went in on D-Day plus six additional hours. It was one of the first "Long Toms" in Normandy.

Our outfit started out as 144th Field Artillery. We had our training in Fort Lewis, Washington. It was located at the bottom of Mount Renier. Our 14th was a national guard outfit. After basic training it was disbanded. The former 144th became the 980th and 981st Field Artillery Battalions. Some men in the 980th were from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Oddly enough, I was the only man from New York in the outfit.

The invasion occurred and was definitely memorable. During the push through St. Lo, the 981st was called to bore sight on pill boxes. We experienced the rough stuff. We have five battle stars to our credit.

At the Bulge, the weather was frigid. We lost two guns. We went through "41 days of hell"! On Christmas we were thankful for a wonderful meal. However, luck was not with us for too long. We were shelled, low and behold they hit our kitchen area. We kissed a good meal goodbye.

The only thing left for us to eat was a pot of beets. I never ate beets before but now I eat them—shuddering as I reminisce to that "Black Day."

Dominic Corcillo
981 FA BN

A GRACIOUS LADY

On 18 October, 1998, I flew to Luxembourg City to meet Dewey Wilburn, a WWII comrade from Clarksville, Texas, whose plane to Luxembourg City had arrived 15 minutes earlier. The main purpose was to visit graves of mutual buddies KIA in the Bastogne area in the Battle of the Bulge in the National Cemetery on the south side of the airport a short 10 minute drive away. While completing forms for lost luggage, I telephoned Tilly Kimmes, who from previous communications I knew was expecting my call. She advised staring at the Moris Hotel in Walferdange, a village near her home in Steinsel. We agreed to meet later that afternoon the 19th in the small hotel lobby-lounge, restaurant area. At the appointed hour, in walked this gracious lady, and even before she had introduced herself, I knew it had to be Tilly Kimmes.

Following a leisurely two-hour visit, she departed after we agreed to come to her house fairly early the next morning (20 October, 1998). We were privileged to visit her magnificent personal museum in which had visited some of the world's great military leaders including the most well known of those from the United States. Over coffee, this gracious, humble, effervescent lady surprised us by revealing she had called ahead to Jean Milmeister, the Vice President and researcher-historian of CEBA, and if we liked we could go meet him. As I drove up the valley north toward Ettelbruck, Tilly pointed out various places and recited actions of the 80th and 26th Infantry Divisions, both of which the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion had been attached to for combat in France.

When we reached Ettelbruck on this cloudy day with light mist, we found Mr. Milmeister standing at a particular parking spot where he had been waiting well over an hour. Following initial introductions and chatting, we followed him to Trois Ponts and vicinity to view the monument near the crossroads erected to honor the 28th, 26th, and 90th Infantry Divisions and the 6th Cavalry Group with which Company C, 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion had been awarded the Presidential Citation for their actions. The rest of the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion had arrived 21 December, 1944, at Sibret (Company A) and Libramont/Recogne (Company B), and Headquarters at Straimont, Belgium. Mr. Milmeister had with him a copy of the official after action report certifying the presence of our Company C, including his home town. As we toured the area, he pointed out the locations of both the German and American army units which were locked in deadly combat in the area of Trois Ponts. This personalized tour by Tilly and Jean was so unexpected and precious that no words exist to adequately express our gratitude and appreciation.

Then when Tilly's picture graced the cover of the May issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, my heart leap. She is truly an international sweetheart who graciously volunteered hours of her time to host me and comrade Dewey Wilburn to precious memorable experiences. I just had to let you who know Tilly know how fitting it is you would honor her with a cover page photograph.

Raymond J. Young
602 TD BN

ANOTHER AMERICAN BOYFRIEND

I want to thank you for the wonderful article about the marvelous Tilly Kimmes. I am honored to be considered one of her "American Boyfriends."

When my wife and I were planning a trip to Luxembourg in 1993, it was suggested that I contact Tilly Kimmes for any help I may need in planning our trip. I had no idea who she was. However, I wrote to her asking if she could help me locate two Luxembourg families I had met during the war, and with whom I corresponded for a while afterwards, but eventually lost touch. By amazing coincidence...one turned out to be Tilly's sister in law! Tilly not only helped us locate the people we were searching for (one had died from cancer, but we met her family), but she would not hear of us staying anywhere except in her home. For three days, she and her sister-in-law drove us all over Luxembourg, taking us to every town we wanted to visit. Tilly is a walking encyclopedia on the battle...detailing which American units fought in and liberated each town. We even appeared with her

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

in a television documentary that was being made for the Luxembourg Ministry of Culture. Thanks largely to Tilly, we had an unforgettable trip.

I had never heard of the VBOB until Tilly told me about it. I joined as soon as I got home. America has no greater friends in Europe than the people of Luxembourg, and especially CEBA and Tilly.

Again, thank you for this story about this truly remarkable lady.

Harry E. Kirby
26 INF 104 INF HQ

IT AIN'T OVER, TIL IT'S OVER!

I very much agree with the article written by Ed Bredbender, 80th Infantry Division, in the November, 1998, *Bulge Bugle*, entitled "Who Said It Was So?," in the "Letters to the Editor" column. This was regarding the ending date of the Battle of the Bulge.

Some historians give the ending date as 28 January, but for some divisions, like Ed's, the fighting still raged heavily in areas. Even until the middle of February as he states.

The 87th Division, after fighting in the area west of Bastogne, January 1-12, relieved the 4th Infantry Division in Luxembourg around Echternach until the 24th of January, when it was relieved by the 76th Division. They returned into Belgium, passed through the 17th Airborne Division, which was on its way to Luxembourg and now the 87th had its objective the Our River west of St. Vith. It then engaged the enemy in Gruflange or Gruflingen and the 347th Regiment made a frontal attack up the road near Huen-Schonberg-Andler-Manderfeld-Loshien towards the Siegfried Line near the border.

The 347th made the attack on Ormont seizing 15 pill boxes. At the same time the 346th attacked Hill 648, Gold "B" Hill west of Ormont, under heavy enemy artillery and small arms, after a 20-minute artillery preparation. During the period of 26th February to 4 March, the regiments fought through heavy mine fields and dense woods in bitter cold weather against a strong enemy. Its artillery, mortar, and neblewerfer fire was deadly. But both regiments succeeded in their mission with hundreds of casualties and capturing hundreds of prisoners, and more than 50 pill boxes. The attack carried them past Stadtkyll across the Kyll River. Note that it was at Stadtkyll that col Joachim Pieper organized his Panzer Division and on December 16, 1944, began the breakout of the Battle of the Bulge, using the same route that the 87th Division exited from Belgium into Germany.

I would say that the battle was not over until "Pieper" was driven back to his origins at Stadtkyll. A new phase of World War II began for the 87th Division. On 14 March embarked on the battle for Germany. The division was now ready to begin its march toward "inside Germany," the Battle of the Bulge was over and the Rhineland Campaign began. Who said it was so, that the Bulge ended on 25th January or even 28th January, 1945? Again ask Ed or Camille Kohn, and they'll tell you, "it ain't over, til it's over."

John E. McAuliffe
87 INF 347 INF M

OTHER LONG TOM BATTALIONS WERE THERE

This refers to an article entitled "The 155 Long Toms Got Around" which appeared on page 4 of the February, 1999, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

I can appreciate Mr. Norman B. Shoults' enthusiasm regarding his old outfit, the 979th Field Artillery Battalion, however, I wish to make a correction so that the readership of your fine publication, as well as the men of our organization (the 244th Field Artillery Battalion) and any other long tom battalions which served in France, Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia, will know that in addition to his outfit and the 978th to which he referred, there were other long tom battalions there with him.

We went into Utah Beach late in July 1944, immediately became a part of Patton's Third Army, and then on to the German border east of Metz, France, then called to Luxembourg for the Battle of the Bulge, then through Germany into Czechoslovakia where we were on VE Day. All in all, we received five campaign battle stars.

W. U. (Doc) Savage
244 FA BN A

MANY MEMORIES INVOKED

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for the recent article, "U.S. Soldiers Still Remembered" in the February, 1999, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. I have had the privilege of paying my respects to the fallen at Hamm Cemetery, Luxembourg, on two occasions. Also with my wife and two children I have paid homage to the 9,000 plus and 1,500 missing at Normandy Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach at St-Laurent Sur-Mer. Your summary of the cemeteries is a reminder to your readers that thousands of young men, when you and I were young, were denied the opportunity and future that life has allowed us. Their deaths allowed us to live in a freer world and contributed to the destruction of an ideology led by tyrants and despots that was globe threatening.

Your article invoked in me memories of my visit to Hamm Cemetery and the placing of floral pieces at the Hamm Cemetery Chapel. I wonder how many readers were informed that General Patton, who led our forces across Europe after the breakout on August 1, 1944, is buried under a similar white marble cross as are buried the men who fought under him in the Ardennes, as your article indicated. Those of us who have returned to the Ardennes, Henri-Chapelle and Luxembourg Hamm Cemeteries share your reverence for their place in history.

Carl DeVasto
26 INF 101 INF HQ

MORE ON "REVISIONIST HISTORY"

Both Roger Roehringer (*Bugle*, November, 1998) and Tom Raney (*Bugle*, February, 1999) were right on the mark in their comments about Stephen Ambrose's *Citizen Soldiers* purported history. The book appears to me to be full of inaccuracies, misinformation and inadequate research.

One particular allegation I can refute from my own personal knowledge. On page 181 of his book, Ambrose relates an incident wherein a friendly civilian had crossed the German lines and reported seeing much heavy equipment, rubber boats, etc., on the German side; also, a captured Polish conscript in the German Army warned of an impending attack (as, indeed, did a number of other German prisoners, by the way). He goes on to say that this information was passed on to battalion and from there to division intelligence (presumably, 4th Infantry Division G-2). Then, Ambrose states that, "There it died." This, I'm convinced, is simply not factual as I recall personally seeing the referenced report at VIII Corps Headquarters, where I functioned in the G-2 Section. I also remember that the information was at once forwarded to Army and adjacent corps. The incident, according to Ambrose, occurred on December 14; we got it probably on the 15th—much too late, in any event, to do anything about it before the German attack on the 16th.

Ambrose then goes on to heap insult on top of misinformation. He states: "Human intelligence made little impression on these twentieth-century warriors, who had signal intelligence to keep them apprised of the enemy's order of battle." This is sheer nonsense; none of the divisions, corps or even higher level intelligence personnel with whom I was familiar were even aware of the "Enigma," "Ultra," Bletchley Park story until after the end of the war. Practically all of our intelligence came, in fact, from "human" sources, that is, from prisoner interrogations, aerial photographs, resistance groups, OSS and captured documents.

I wonder whether Ambrose ever checked his sources or his information. He could probably have found the report he mentions if he had checked the official 4th Division or VIII Corps G-2 and Order of Battle Reports. I doubt he ever met or talked to a real live WWII combat intelligence soldier. All of which leads me to wonder whether Mr. Ambrose is really a serious historian.

Felix G. Liebmann
VIII Corps G-2, Order of Battle Team #23

A SPECIAL THANKS

I had a very pleasant experience this past year as a result of a letter of mine which was published in one of last year's *Bugles*. An old friend, Horton Brooks (Excelsior, Minnesota), from rookie days with the 7th Armored Division, got in contact with me which resulted in renewing our acquaintance.

After a few telephone communications we arranged to get together at the annual meeting of the North Dakota Chapter of VBOB in Bismarck, North Dakota, in early May, 1999. We had a wonderful time reminiscing and were also able to get in

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

touch with another of our rookie members, Karl Berg, of Bismarck. We all three went through the war with the 40th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division, and had many notes to compare.

Thanks again for publishing my last letter and best wishes to all VBOB members and friends.

Oliver P. Tveit
7 ARMDD 40 TK BN

PROUD TO BE ONE OF THE "BOY FRIENDS"

I have just received my May, 1999, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. What a delight to see Tilly on the front cover. Just two months ago, my friend, Walter Christopher and I, spent two weeks as her guests in her home. She truly is a gracious lady and a friend to all American GI's. CEBA, the organization of which she is the Secretary, had arranged a tour of Luxembourg for us. To say that we were overwhelmed by their generosity and hospitality, would be an understatement. The work that CEBA, US Veterans Friends and other organizations are doing in Luxembourg to commemorate those who participated in their liberatio was very gratifying to us. We saw more memorials to American GI's than we could ever have imagined. We visited most of the country and saw sights that few tourists have the opportunity to see. Of particular interest to us was the places where our unit, the 398th Engineer (GS) Regiment served as part of Patton's Third Army.

The country was beautiful, the cities and villages neat and orderly, but the thing that impressed us most was the people. So friendly and gracious and so appreciative of their "Liberators." I hope to return again some day.

Like all American GI's who have the opportunity to know the freedom loving people of Luxembourg, we cn away with a greater appreciation of the freedom which we enjoy, but so often take for granted.

Most of all, we re proud to be numbered among Tilly's "boy friends."

Clyde Walton
398 ENGR (GS) REGT

[Clyde sent us a copy of "Return to Luxembourg," which he prepared detailing their wonderful trip to Luxembourg.]

KEEPING IT SECRET

Keeping your plans masked from the enemy is important duty. We had three systems for doing it: transposition which can e done with paper and pencil, CM 209, a hand-held device, and Sigaba, most secure of all--a system that pays off on a fast typing speed--which I had from meeting newspaper deadlines.

After we crossed the Rhine on a pontoon bridge, winning the presidential citation for being the first signal battalion across Germany's great water barrier, there was a need to encipher orders to units on the other shore; so one of our men was sent across with a West Point lieutenant in charge of message center. He came back with a hole in his canteen which was strapped to his hip; and a graphic account of how close he had come to "getting it" in the part he sat on. But we knew better. The rascal had drilled a hole through it with a bullet from his carbine.

There's also the story about another of our men, caught in his first floor bunk by a surprise attack, making it to the bomb shelter one step ahead of me without getting out of his sleeping bag.

Kermit Buntrock
94 SIG BN B

**"To be Seventy years young
is sometimes more hopeful than to be
Forty years old."**

Oliver Wendell Holmes

1999-2000 NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Chairman Stanley Wojtusik announces the following slate for Executive Council members for 1999-2000:

President: John Dunleavy
737th Tank Battalion

Executive Vice President: Louis Cunningham
106th Infantry Division

Vice President Membership: Thomas Jones
818th Combat MP Company

Vice President Chapters: Richard Schlenker
26th Infantry Division

Vice President Military Affairs: Stanley Wojtusik
106th Infantry Division

Vice President Publications: John J. Hyland
84th Infantry Division

Treasurer: William P. Tayman
87th Infantry Division

Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

Recording Secretary: Eva Popovich
Associate Member

Trustees (Three-year Term):

Frances Doherty

Associate Member

Peter Dounis

75th Infantry Division

Frederick R. Carmichael

87th Infantry Division

These nominees will be presented for election at the Membership Business Meeting Sunday, September 26, 1999, in Newport News, Virginia.

Up Front

with Willie & Joe



"... forever, Amen. Hit the dirt."

MARYLAND VBOB MEMORIAL DEDICATED

(Continued from Page 1)

valiant contributions made by our veterans in the Bulge.

Our National VBOB Commander, George Linthicum, a Chapter Member and contributor, also praised the efforts of the chapter in erecting the memorial and thanked the de Christopher Brothers who designed and contributed the monument as they have for a number of monuments to VBOB Chapters. Our past National VBOB Commander Darrell T. Kuhn and past Chapter President, was our main speaker and recounted the Battle of the Bulge and the sacrifices made there.

Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland also appeared and spoke of the great contribution that this generation of veterans has made to the welfare of our country and facing tyranny when it rose its head.

Our resident poet, George Coates wrote a special poem for the occasion as a "Tribute to Bulge Units." Several proclamations were received from Gerald A. Glaubitz, Mayor of Morningside, MD representing the governor and Delegate Mary Ann Love, representing the Maryland House of Delegates, presented a proclamation as did the Anne Arundel County Executive, Janet S. Owens, who spoke of the close ties of the county with Ft. Meade and the Armed Forces there.

Just before unveiling of the monument, our Chapter Secretary, presented Col. Frketic, Maj. Gen. Ivany, and Ft. Meade Commander Sgt. Maj. Matlock-Williams with the Book of Honor, containing a page for each of the monument contributions and their dedication, which was accepted for the Ft. Meade Museum.

The unveiling of the monument was performed by Col. Frketic, our Chapter President, Sydney J. Lawrence, our Treasurer, Nell Brown Thompson, and our BOB Historical foundation Director, Dorothy Steinbis Davis. A beautiful wreath was laid by them followed by a Rifle Salute by the Ft. Meade Honor Guard. Beautiful echo taps were sounded by buglers of the 389th Army Band from Aberdeen, MD. Benediction was offered by our Chaplain, Rev. Davis W. Peck, who also opened the ceremonies with an invocation.

Following the dedication, everyone was invited to a reception under tents set up by Ft. Meade staff beside the museum, to partake of the delicious catered food.

The Dedication Committee particularly wishes to thank the 389th US Army Band from Aberdeen for their splendid music and for their perseverance and endurance in sitting in the full sun and heat that day. Credit also goes to all who attended and endured the stifling heat in order to pay homage and respect to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. —John D. Bowen

Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival. —WINSTON CHURCHILL, speech (1940)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!

The date your dues were dues is just above your last name on the mailing label. We need your support.

Special poem written by resident poet, George Coates for the VBOB Monument dedication, Ft. Meade, MD, May 30, 1999.

A Tribute to the Battle of the Bulge

I'm asking for your help folks, let's make the message clear.
So everyone will understand, exactly why we're here.
We're here to tell the truth, Lord, about just how we feel.
Confessing to the world, the pain is very real!

Although it's been so long ago, few survivors yet recall,
How they faced the battles, saw their buddies fall.
Courage with which they fought, we will not soon forget.
America must be reminded, we're always in their debt.

This stone and other symbols, are placed on hallowed ground,
To pause and show respect, we must always walk around.
The future of America depends on how we view this place,
To remind the kids more often, of sacrifice for their space.

This story must be continued, from that we must not hedge.
There are heroes here among us, this memorial they did pledge.
In honor of their buddies, who battled side by side.
Battle of the Bulge Units, you have served with pride.

George Lindsay Coates
Distinguished Member
International Society of Poets

FOUNDER'S CHILDREN PLACE WREATH



Barbara and Scott Boden, daughter and son of VBOB's Founder Clyde D. Boden, are pictured laying a wreath in observance of Memorial Day at the VBOB Monument in Arlington Cemetery.

REFLECTIONS by Joseph Zimmer

These reflections were given by the author as part of the Memorial Ceremony as 2nd Vice-President of the MD/DC Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association, on Sunday, 30 May 1999, at the Ft Meade Officers Clubhouse. His thoughts are shared with those who were unable to attend.

As we fought through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany in those bleak, dark, snowy, foggy days in the Battle of the Bulge, in December 1944, little did we think of monuments like this one at Fort Meade, Maryland. So many are owed a debt of gratitude for this beautiful monument and what it represents. In 1990, as I traversed the land we fought through, from France, Belgium, Luxembourg, to Germany, I saw memorials, plaques, monuments, dedicated to we soldiers, throughout many Allied towns, hamlets and villages we liberated. Here today, I am reminded again, that what we did, what we became, must be preserved for time immemorial. Today we belong here. There is no other place we ought to be. We soldiers of Brokaw's "Greatest Generation" and Stephen Ambrose's "Citizen Soldiers."

As for our fallen comrades, we look back on memories of their early youth as comrades, soldiers. They were very young to die. In each of them we saw the innocence and beauty of spirit today's world misses and often cries for. Each of them walked with death, as if death were their companion, an acquaintance each recognized and did not fear, even to the end. How sterling were these warriors who gave their last full measure of devotion to: DUTY — HONOR — COUNTRY. Here at this historic and venerable Fort Meade, we honor them by this monument. No matter how we change the date of Memorial Day each year, it is to honor those we love and want to remember. Many of us have trouble talking about death, funerals and cemeteries, yet, death is a fact of life, a phase of human existence. Sad to say, it is war, not peace, that is the normal condition of mankind. There has not been a single day in this closing 29th Century when there were fewer than a score of wars raging somewhere, all of which took over 110 million lives. By the reckoning of Will Durant, noted historian, there been only 29 years in all of recorded history when peace apparently prevailed. In modern history — more civilians were killed, than soldiers, in World War II, than in any other war.

In closing, I am reminded of the 1968 Olympics, in Mexico City, thirty years ago —closing ceremony. Everybody in the stadium was given a flashlight. At the end of the ceremonies, 1,000 Mariachis came onto the field and sang a beautiful song called La Golondrina. The song was a story of a swallow in a cage and the joy and love a family got from this bird. Finally, the bird starts to thrash around in the cage. The parents tell their child, "this swallow has given us so much joy that we must now let it spread its wings and give this same joy to the world." they opened the cage and La Golondrina flies away. The symbolism for the crowd was that during these two weeks, the Olympic athletes had given so much joy that they must now be allowed to go home and spread their joy to the world. The Mexicans all knew the song and were crying, at its beauty. They wouldn't let the Mariachis leave. The crowd of 80,000 kept singing the song over and over again for another hour. As soon as they'd finish the last stanza, someone in the crowd, man or woman, would start it up again.

It was probably one of the most spontaneous surges of emotion ever experienced by those at the Olympic stadium. No one wanted to let the swallows —the athletes — women or men go home. My wish today is, for our own elusive swallow — peace and prosperity — for all here and around the globe. <may future monuments like these, not be necessary to those who serve in war. Let's keep the "genie" in the bottle — especially the nuclear, germ or chemical one, never be unleashed to settle differences or in war. May men and women not have to arch off to a distant land again. With eight grandchildren — four in college — my wife and I share a personal interest with you, in hoping that this wish comes true.

NO MORE WARS!!! Let us carry the sacred memory that this monument represents and, do all we can to preserve its full meaning for generations to come.

Thank you Fort Meade.

VBOB PAST PRESIDENTS ATTEND MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Attending the dedication of the Maryland/District of Columbia Monument Dedication are left to right VBOB Past Presidents Stanley Wojtusik and Darrell Kuhn, President George C. Linthicum, and Past President Grover C. Twiner. Past Presidents George Chekan and William Greenville (although not pictured) were also in attendance. The ceremony took place May 30, 1999, at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. (Details elsewhere in this issue.)



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
Newport News, Virginia
September 23-26, 1999

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Unit or Company: _____

Address: _____

Wife/Guest Name: _____

Division: _____ Regiment: _____

Signature: _____

Please provide the name of the hotel where you have made reservations _____

	Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total
Registration Fee (All attendees must register)	_____	\$30.00	_____
Friday, September 24, 1999:			
Pass in Review Ceremony - Fort Monroe			
VBOB Monument Ceremony			
Reception Lunch - Chamberlin Hotel			
Tour Casemate Museum - Fort Monroe	_____	\$35.00	_____
Bar-B-Que - Omni Hotel	_____	\$18.00	_____

Saturday, September 25, 1999:

Fort Eustis, U.S. Army Transportation Museum -			
Tour of Norfolk, Virginia - Chrysler Museum -			
Two Hour Luncheon Cruise on the <i>Spirit of Norfolk</i> -			
MacArthur Memorial - MacArthur Shopping Center	_____	\$48.00	_____

Sunday, September 26, 1999:

Colonial Williamsburg Overview	_____	\$27.00	_____
Banquet	_____	\$28.00	_____

Please indicate whether you prefer: Beef #____ OR Chicken #____

Total Amount Enclosed

\$ _____

Mail registration form and check payable to "VBOB" to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 11129 • Arlington, VA 22210-2129

REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE--SEPTEMBER 10, 1999 - OR BRING FORM WITH YOU.

(Refunds for cancellations, will be honored in whole or in part, depending on availability of funds.)

**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
REUNION PROGRAM
Newport News, Virginia
September 23-26, 1999**



• THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999 •

12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Omni Newport News
The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Welcome Wine, Cheese & Pasta Reception
Hosted by VBOB. Attendees must be registered.

• FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999 •

As needed Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Omni Newport News
The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.
8:15 a.m. Board Buses for Fort Monroe
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Fort Monroe Pass in Review Ceremony - Parade Grounds
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. VBOB Monument Dedication and Memorial Service at Fort Monroe (Details on information sheet.)
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Reception and Buffet Lunch - Chamberlin Hotel, Fort Monroe (Details on information sheet.)
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Tour of Casemate Museum - America's largest stone fort (Details on information sheet.)
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Outdoor Patio Bar-B-Que - Omni Hotel

• SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1999 •

As needed Registration Desk
8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Board buses for Fort Eustis Army Transportation Museum - Riding Norfolk City Tour - *Spirit of Norfolk* Lunch Cruise - MacArthur Memorial. (Details on information sheet.)
Dinner On your own

• SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1999 •

As needed Registration Desk
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting. All are welcome to attend.
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Colonial Williamsburg Overview (Details on information sheet.)
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour - Cash Bar
6:30 p.m. Annual Banquet with guest speaker--General John N. Abrams, Commanding General U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Dinner will offer your choice of Chicken Marsala or Roast Prime Rib of Beef, salad, potato or rice (chef's option), vegetables, rolls, dessert and beverage. Dinner will be followed by dancing.

Hospitality Room: Location and times will be posted in the lobby.

VBOB REUNION INFORMATION SHEET

•FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999• MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY AT FORT MONROE, RECEPTION AT CHAMBERLIN HOTEL, & TOUR OF CASEMATE MUSEUM

Visit historic Fort Monroe, Home to the Army Training and Doctrine Command. Fort Monroe is the "think tank" of the Army where the doctrine, weapons systems, equipment, organization and training needs are developed. The fort, occupying 63 acres, was first established in 1607 by English settlers, and has been used as a strategic site because of its vantage point on the Chesapeake Bay during all major wars.

A monument will be dedicated at the fort in memory of all who served in the Battle of the Bulge with ceremony as planned by members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.

Following the ceremony there will be a reception at the beautiful Chamberlin Hotel which is located on the base.

Next, there will be a tour of the Casemate Museum which is housed within the thick walls of America's largest stone fort. Exhibits include the prison cell of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Civil War artifacts and displays relating to the Battle of the Monitor and Merrimac.

See the beautiful Centurion Chapel on base where Dwight D. Eisenhower's son was married and the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse.

•SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1999• FORT EUSTIS ARMY TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, RIDING NORFOLK CITY TOUR, *SPIRIT OF NORFOLK LUNCHEON CRUISE,* & MacARTHUR MEMORIAL or MacARTHUR CENTER

Depart via motor coach for the short drive to Fort Eustis, home of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. Here at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum, you will explore the world of motion and transportation, from mighty steam locomotives of days past to the world's only captive "flying saucer," experience the history of wagons, and trucks, airplanes and helicopters, locomotives, tugboats and DUKW's and experimental hovercraft, such as the "flying jeep," and examine more than 200 years of Army transportation history.

Next, visit downtown Norfolk and enjoy a narrated riding tour through the beautiful historic district and restored areas. View the Chrysler Museum, the lovely homes along the Hague, the Moses Myers House, old St. Paul's Church and many other points of interest.

Board the magnificent *Spirit of Norfolk* for a two-hour luncheon cruise. Feast on a sumptuous buffet and enjoy the informative narration as you cruise through the Hampton Roads Harbor. View the many interesting sights along the waterfront, including the mighty aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines at the Norfolk Naval Base. Enjoy dancing and a show following lunch. The ship has two climate-controlled lower decks and an open-air upper deck.

Following the cruise, visit MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. During your visit you will view the outstanding collection of artifacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and times of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the 25 minute film which chronicles General MacArthur's life. The general is entombed in the rotunda of the memorial.

Choose between visiting the unique gift shop located on the premises OR visit the brand new MacArthur Center, anchored by Nordstrom's and Dillard's and offering over 150 specialty shops, boutiques and restaurants. This beautiful new mall is considered to be one of the most outstanding in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Special discount coupon books will be made available for members of the VBOB tour group.

•SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1999• COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG OVERVIEW

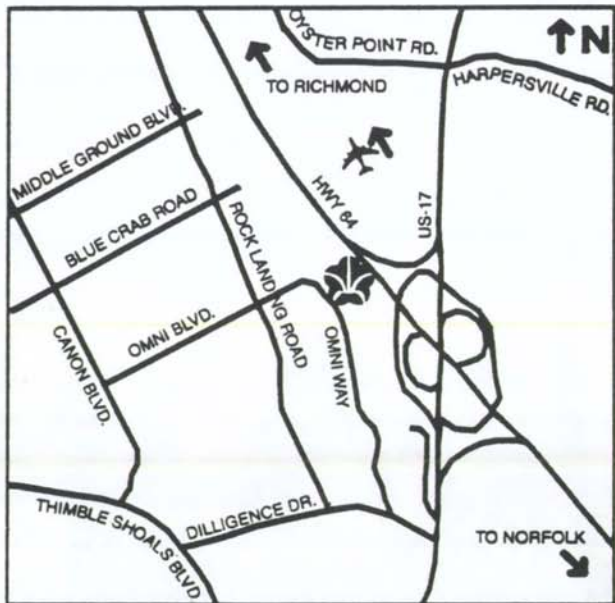
Depart via motor coach with your guide for the charming Town of Williamsburg. Your guide will provide interesting and informative narration during your ride about the historic Virginia Peninsula and the Hampton Roads area.

Once you arrive in Williamsburg, you will step back into the 18th century while strolling through the streets of this colonial capital city. Your historical interpreter will guide you through the past and the events that helped shape America's history, as you enjoy a one and one-half hour leisurely walking tour through the restored area of this lovely town. (Actual distance is about 4-5 blocks.) There are many opportunities to stop and rest along the way and beverages are also available.

Following your overview tour, enjoy approximately two hours to shop and browse in the many unique specialty shops in Merchants Square. High quality apparel, gifts, jewelry, unusual quilts, beautiful furniture, fine porcelain, pewter and Christmas decorations are but a few of the offerings found in this quaint, picturesque shopping area.

Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the historic Colonial Taverns or in Merchants Square. Your tour guide will point out all of the dining options as you pass through town. ■

OMNI NEWPORT NEWS HOTEL



From Washington/Dulles: (3 1/2 Hours) Take I-495 to South I-95 then to I-64 East. Once in Newport News, take exit 258-A (South J. Clyde Morris Blvd.). At first light, turn right onto Diligence Dr. Turn right onto Omni Blvd. to hotel entrance.

From Norfolk: (45 Minutes) Take I-64 West. Once in Newport News, take exit 258-A (South J. Clyde Morris Blvd.). At first light take a right onto Diligence Dr. Turn right onto Omni Blvd. to hotel entrance.

From Newport News/Williamsburg: (10 Minutes) Exit airport on Bland Blvd. Make a left onto Jefferson Ave. and stay in right hand lane to merge onto I-64 East. Take exit 258-A (South J. Clyde Morris Blvd.). At first light, turn right onto Diligence Dr. Turn right onto Omni Blvd. to hotel entrance.

GUEST ROOM REGISTRATION FORM

Guest Name: _____ Name of Group: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Name on card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

of People: _____ Room Type: (request only) _____ Room Rate: \$76.00+tax

Special Requests: _____

Reservations must be received no later than 8/23/99 to insure guest room availability as outlined above. Reservations received after the above date will be accepted on a room availability basis as unused guest rooms will be released for general sale. Please return mail this form or fax it to us at (757)873-1732. You may also call in your reservations to 1-800-THE-OMNI or (757)873-6664.

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THIS OLD HOUSE... DO YOU REMEMBER IT?

The chateau below was on the outskirts of Bastogne in 1944. The picture was sent to us by Army Nurse **IRENE (nee PYLVANIEN) SMITH**, who served in the **107TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL** which was headquartered in the chateau.



Here's Irene (with arm band), along with her good friend, **RUTH PURYEAR**, who also served with the 107th. Irene and Ruth renewed acquaintances recently after Irene read in *The Bugle* that Ruth had participated in a VBOB ceremony. Now these ladies chat regularly.

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107TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL

By William R. "Woody" Ford

The 107th Evacuation Hospital arrived at Clervaux, Luxembourg, on October 1, 1944, after completing a 700-mile journey from the Crozan Peninsula following the capture of the German garrison at Brest, France.

Our hospital site was on a wind-swept hillside about three miles from the town and twelve miles northeast of Bastogne.

Our hospital staff was comprised of 40 doctors, 40 nurses and 205 enlisted personnel. It was a 400-bed tent set-up.

In early December we had evacuated all our patients, pending a move to a new location at Caserne, near Aachen, Germany. Our advance party returned--unable to locate a suitable hospital site. We expected to remain at Clervaux until a decision could be made. Rumor had it there would be no action until spring time.

Suddenly everything changed! At 2230 hour on December 16th, warning orders were received for movement. Equipment and supplies were hastily loaded on trucks. The distant sound of shell fire was getting louder by the hour.

The following morning reports came in about street fighting in Clervaux. We vacated the area promptly and set up our hospital in a palatial hunting lodge located between Libramont and Libin, Belgium. It was owned by Baron Coppee, and was named Chateau de Roumont. Pre-op and Shock took over the entrance and ballroom. Surgery, the banquet hall. Corridors, and even stairways were full of cots. By midnight we were functioning. Stragglers were streaming in with horrible tales. German paratroopers in American uniforms were creating havoc. The Nazis were taking no prisoners. Individual soldiers reported having seen members of their squad annihilated. Wounded were pouring in from all sectors of the front. The confusion was great and necessarily required immediate level-headed decisions by our Commanding Officer Col. Henry Daine.

Since the chain of medical evacuation was greatly disrupted, many of the wounded were in dire need of extremely serious medical surgery. During an 80-hour period 388 delicate and/or complicated operations were performed. Men worked 12 hours at their usual assignment and then continued to assist as litter-bearers for hours more. Officers, even nurses, carried litters. No one slept if they could help in some way. The mess personnel fed more than 1,500 people at each meal. The spirit was magnificent.

On December 21st we were alerted that German patrols were closing in. Orders were issued to evacuate all patients and immediately move to a new location. Three hundred patients were speedily loaded on ambulances and trucks and transported to the next echelon. Another 100 accompanied us to our next station--St. Joseph's School in Karlsburg, Belgium. We arrived in the early afternoon of the 21st. About 150 additional patients were soon admitted. Then, shortly after our personnel had completed sorting equipment and properly stocking ward boxes, blankets and surgery boxes, we were ordered to move again because of enemy activity in the area. All 250 of our patients were evacuated, and our unit withdrew to Sedan, France, where we occupied the Ecole de Textile de Nord (Textile School). Our personnel were quartered at the College Turenne. Patients were waiting when we opened at 1000 hours on December 24th.

After the siege of Bastogne was lifted about 1,200 total patients were brought into the hospital, many suffering from combat exhaustion. Many others required X-rays to locate stray bits of metal previously undetected. In a 24-hour period 245 patients were X-rayed, most requiring two, and some six or eight exposures.

On January 17th, 1945, we closed station at Sedan with a total of 3,771 patients as our part in three set-ups during the Bulge....■

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

FRANK H. THAXTON, JR., could sure use your help. He returned from the war with no remembrance of his experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. Records indicate that he served with the **2ND INFANTRY DIVISION** in both the **9TH AND 23RD REGIMENTS**. He was in Malmedy in a rest area on December 16, 1944, and was injured on January 19th. He has no recollection of occurrences during that time. Records indicate he was wounded in Welmes, Belgium, and was hospitalized in Leige, Paris and England for a period of 2 to 3 months. After the war ended he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in the Netherlands. He has returned to Belgium and the battle areas (including Malmedy) but nothing brings back memories. If you can provide anything, write to him: 9316 Midvale Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118.

MILTON W. GROSS, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 307TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY B, is looking for information regarding his division or battalion and is hopeful of finding someone who served with him. Write to Milton at: 4141 North 31st Street #326, Phoenix, Arizona 85016-5882.

Janet Walker would like information on her brother, **PFC WILLIAM J. WALKER, 818TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, COMPANY A**, who was KIA on March 18, 1945, in Hutterdsdorf, Germany. If you remember Bill, or can provide any information, write to Janet: Box 565, Winter Park, Florida 32790.

PVT GEORGE R. CONNOR, 6TH ARMORED DIVISION, 9TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B, was KIA in Belgium in early/mid-January, 1945, after being reported MIA on January 4. His son, Roger M. Connor, would be very grateful for any scrap of information about his father and/or the circumstances of his death. Please write to him at 4141 North Henderson Road, Apt 327; Arlington, Virginia 22203.

LEONARD N. SCHAFENBERG, 174TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, is trying to locate **STEVE SHADLINGER**, who was in his battalion in Texas and then transferred to the **3071ST REFRIGERATION TRUCKING COMPANY**. Leonard believes he was from Ohio. Write to Leonard at: 1911 East 29th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11229.

Associate member **GUY COLLIER** would like to hear from anyone who served with the **3RD CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION**. Write to Guy at: 3567 Northview Lane, Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901.

K. E. "GENE" ALLEN, 30TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have served with him. Write to Gene at: P.O. Box 266, Ketchum, Oklahoma 74349.

GEORGE V. GROSS, 578TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, would like to hear from anyone who may have served in his battalion. Write to George at: 5714 1st Street,

Northwest, Washington, DC 20011-2320.

Can anyone provide information regarding **PVT WALTER W. KANICK, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 331ST INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**. His sister would very much like to obtain this information. He was killed on July 20, 1944. The last letter they had from him was dated June 27, 1944, mailed from somewhere in France. If you can help, write to Archie Marple, 2295 Meadow Drive, Glen Dale, West Virginia 26038.

LEONARD P. SHEA, 776TH FIELD ARTILLERY SERVICE, SERVICE BATTERY, would like to hear from someone from his outfit. Write to him at: 1523 Oakview Circle, S.E., Winter Haven, Florida 33880-4473.

Ronald Olsen would like to know if anyone knew his brother, **EMIL OLSEN, MP, 14TH ARMORED DIVISION**. Emil died two days after the war while checking a German gun with a friend. Write to him at: 1201 Vermont St, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

GEORGE F. THRELFALL, 731ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY C, would appreciate hearing from **EDWARD GRAFFEO**, or anyone from their outfit. Write to George: 2848 Stanwood Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32207-4631.

Regina Pradier-Beldzik is trying to trace her father's footsteps during World War II. Her father, **WILLIS PRADIER**, was with **396TH TRANSPORTATION TRUCK COMPANY** attached to the **4059TH QUARTERMASTER BATTALION**. They were based in Westmoors, Dorset, England. She knows that he was in the Rhineland Campaign. If you can help, write to her at: 31 Glovers Lane, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7LW, England.

In December, 1944, when the Bulge started, many trucks of the **RED BALL EXPRESS** were stationed in a village called Glons, near Liege. Men of the unit and the villagers had a very good relationship. When the German offensive broke the unit left the village immediately. The inhabitants of Glons would like to hear from anyone from that group--particularly **GEORGE BEVELAS**, who was from New York, where he had a fur business. If anyone has information please write to: Victor Verstraeten, 27, rue Bois Hame, Glons 4690 Belgium.

ENOCH J. BARNOWSKI, 771ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY C, would like to obtain a history or information regarding his unit. Write to him at: PO Box 22, DuBois, Illinois 62831.

ARTHUR LEON FOSTER, 168TH CHEMICAL SMOKE GENERATING COMPANY, would like a unit history or to hear from anyone who served with him. Write to him at: 10332 SE 10th Street, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73130.

Ken Busony is interested in tracing his father's footsteps in WWII. His father, **NICHOLAS BUSONY**, served as a Medic in the **580TH QUARTERMASTER BATTALION**. He was from Boltz, Pennsylvania.

(Continued on next page)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Anyone with information write to Ken at: 103 Tara Drive, Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601.

Hans Wijers would like to contact veterans of **741ST TANK BATTALION** and **2ND INFANTRY DIVISION**, or others who saw heavy action at the twin villages of Krinkelt and Rocherath (Heartbreak and Lausdell Crossroads). Write to him at Zegerijstraat 27, NL-6971 ZN Brummen, The Netherlands.

Emile Pirard is looking for members of the **1501ST ENGINEERS** who worked on water purification. Members of that unit named Harold, Robert, Blackjack, Bill, John, etc., visited his home often. It would make his family very happy if you write to him at: Rue de la Motte, Chalancon 21, 4801 Stembert, Belgium.

Looking for those who served in **486TH ORDNANCE TANK EVACUATION COMPANY**. Write to Tom Horton, 1100 Lydia Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40217-1249.

Excerpt from **On the Way: General Patton's Eyes and Ears on the Enemy** by Edward A. Marinello

Onset

Light hadn't yet come up. The men huddled inside the canvas-covered trucks. Some, out of habit or to escape the freezing temperatures, had gone back to sleep. Minutes before they worked themselves out of bedrolls, grabbed their helmets and carbines and left the basements of the rubble houses, making their way in pitch black to start out on the most urgent mission of the war. The night before they had been told not to waste time on breakfast, not even coffee. The orders had come from Patton himself.

The reason for the forced march was occurring a hundred miles to the north. There the Wehrmacht, earlier believed by Allied intelligence to be hibernating for the winter, had commenced a widening cleavage into the off-guard Western Front. Now it was in danger of collapsing. A rookie division already had, a veteran one verging. GI's were surrendering in record numbers. A lot lay dead on roads, in fields and foxholes. No small amount were out of breath high tailing away from the fresh, surging panzers. Every kind of military arms and supplies, including precious gas depots, was being abandoned. The Krauts wasted no time putting them to use.

The vehicles were assembled in Diebling's only square. They were sixty in all. A dozen two and one-half ton, about twenty-five three-quarter ton, another twenty or so jeeps and a command car for each of the three battery commanders of the 286th Field Artillery Observation Battalion.

As the command car chauffeuring the battalion commander entered into the square, its cat's eye serving as signal, the waiting drivers turned on ignition keys and formed into a convoy. Lieutenant Colonel Harold E. Kuhlman, a skinny Oklahoman of 34 years of age, and his 500 men departed from

the Lorraine region to plunge into the raging battle then threatening to consume all that had been won over the six months since Normandy. Proceeding over the same roads at the same time, according to strict priority status and a precise schedule, were the most elite divisions of Third Army, including the already legendary Fourth Armored Division, on this occasion delegated the singular responsibility of relieving besieged Bastogne by Christmas, and the 80th and 26th Infantry Divisions. Over just several days, the entire Third Army was to withdraw from the front lines then situated in the most eastern part of France to take up positions in the Ardennes, this as Seventh Army came up from the south to replace it.

The German high command hadn't seriously considered such a shifting, then watched in disbelief as it was carried out with lightning speed and adaptability. Thus nothing in its advance planning came close to predicting how soon their own revitalized infantry and tank divisions, high on glory and vengeance, would confront forces just as tough and determined. The result was the greatest and most decisive battle of World War II.

By the time Fourth Armored began leading the pullout, temperatures had plummeted. Rains turned to snow, muddy roads freezing. The landscape, ripped up and bleeding, took on a soft veneer. Five days earlier the initial signs of German stirrings were vacantly misread by American commanders. Even on the second day what was happening was taken for less than what it was. Only on the third day did the blackening news put to rest the earlier indifference and its coupling notion that the German awakening was only a probe, not the harbinger of pending disaster. Along with the escalating dead and wounded, the relinquishing of already paid for real estate, the unconscionable surrenders and the abandoned arms and supplies, came word of a bloody massacre of GI's. By then it was plain to everybody that the battleground had changed in major and unforeseen ways.

Glory to the valiant Wehrmacht!

Shame on the spineless GI's!

Third Army was put on alert on December 20, 1944. Next day the first of its armored and infantry divisions, which was to eventually involve more than a quarter of a million men, were on their way to the Ardennes. Their mission was to stem the barbaric tide. Two days before Christmas, the 286th FOB, among the tiniest of all the rescuing forces, slipped into the glorious procession, to be gone from the Lorraine where it had entered combat three months before.

On the Way is available from Nova Science Publishing, 6080 Jericho Turnpike, Commack, New York 11725 or your local book store. Cost is \$27.95. The ISBN is 1-56072-605-9.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS HONOR VETERANS

Veterans were honored at the St. Louis Cardinal Baseball Game on Friday, July 2, 1999. VBOB member Stewart Boone, 99th Infantry Division, will open the occasion by playing "The Star Spangled Banner." Stu, as you may remember, played Taps at the Cathedral for the VBOB 50th Anniversary activities in St. Louis and has been very active in the Gateway Chapter. ■

COMMENDATION 955TH FIELD ARTILLERY BN

[The following is an excerpt from a Commendation submitted by PHIL MELLENO and was mentioned in his Letter to the Editor.]

1. On 18th December 1944, the 955 Field Artillery Battalion (155 How) was placed by order of the Commanding General V Corps in a reinforcing role to the 33rd Field Artillery Battalion (105 How) of the 26th Combat Team. The 26th Infantry Regiment, at the time, occupied a defensive position in the vicinity of Butgenbach, Belgium, blocking the route Bullingen-Butgenbach-Weismes-Malmedy. That this route was of primary importance to the German high command, in his break through plan, was revealed by the capture of a document indicating that it was the main route of advance and supply for the 12th SS Panzer Division whose mission was the exploitation of the northern flank of the penetration.

2. From the 19th through 22nd December, 1944 the enemy launched repeated, heavy, coordinated attacks against the 26th Infantry Regiment denying him this vital role. Infantry and armor were launched against the hastily dug-in infantry defenses with prodigal and fanatic ferocity. As the infantry regimental commander, I have no hesitating in stating that this position could not have been held save for the intense, unstinting, and accurate firing support rendered by the artillery. The 955th Field Artillery Battalion (155 How) particularly distinguished itself by its accurate gunnery and the punishing volume of fire it laid down over a long period. All in all, during four days of critical combat the battalion fired a total of 5,096 rounds (242 tons of projectiles) in support of the regiment, a feat made possible only through the Herculean efforts and devotion of every echelon from ammunition train drivers to the personnel of the fire direction center.

3. I wish to acknowledge formally, through channels, the outstanding service rendered by the 955th Field Artillery Battalion in stopping these most determined attacks on my regiment. It was substantially due to the work of this unit that the enemy was forced to give up his costly and disastrous assaults on this key area, and revert to the defensive: a decision which has had repercussions of the most profound nature of his whole breakthrough scheme. ■

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION VIEW OF THE BULGE

By F. W. Glaze, 4th Infantry Division, 8th Infantry, Headquarters

Re: General Order of General R. O. Barton: There will be no retrograde movement in the 4th Division area. And there wasn't!!

There was only one certainty in the 8th, 12th, and 22nd Infantry Regimental Combat Teams of the 4th Infantry Division

on that sorry day in December 1944, in northern Luxembourg--we had no option to "fall back and regroup"! Every man, and especially the few remaining "good old boys," knew our only option was to "sell" the real estate we occupied at the highest possible price! So we did!!

Even the best troops the Germans ever had would lose interest after over-running one position that held out to the last man/bullet only to run into another! And the German troops in the Ardennes were far from what they used to be. They were fairly good but the "best" [e.g., German 6th Parachute Regiment] were long dead.

While the battle raged we "dog faces" didn't have a clue of the "bit picture." That became clear to us long after the battle was over. We did know that Bastogne was being held, our division front was about 35 miles long, our left flank was mostly Germans, and the nearest other units of the First Army were near St. Vith. So we were "sold" to the Third Army of George Patton.

We also knew General Barton created a 4th Regiment from all the cooks, MP's, quartermaster units, etc., and any passers-by. Not only created to be our only reserve but committed several times to plug "holes" and fight damned well to save our collective "a----s"!

General Barton also said the division CP would remain in Luxembourg City [A German objective] and he would be "gravely concerned" if the Germans took his CP. As he was said to have told his regimental commanders: "We took Utah Beach, helped at Cherbourg, St. Lo, Paris and the Hurtgen Forest and I see no reason to give anything back!!"

About a week before the "Bulge" started, the 4th came to a quiet sector on north Luxembourg after completing the worst fight of our war--the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest. That attack cost us over 4,000 casualties so our casualties in the Bulge of less than 3,000 seemed reasonable by WWII standards [if war can ever seem reasonable]!

The only point is that U.S. casualties would have been so much less if only all units had been given the same General Order--"There will be no retrograde movement in the First Army Area." The Germans were attacking and we had the ammo and fuel--the end of the war would have been accelerated, not delayed!

[Articles were attached highlighting activities of the 4th; however, space did not allow publication.]

The Fourth was never particularly good at "blowing its own horn," I suppose it was too busy doing the job we were hired to do, i.e., have gun, will travel!! ■

DID YOU KNOW?

The mathematician Alan Turing, who was instrumental in cracking the "Enigma" machine's codes, died suddenly after eating an apple dipped in cyanide. His death was declared a suicide but his mother maintained that it was an experiment gone wrong. He died June, 1954, at age 41.

The Polish secret service had learned the operation of the Enigma before Poland was over run. They turned the information over to the Allies and Turing and the men at Bletchley Park figured out the coding, enabling the Allies to anticipate moves of the German forces. The trick was doing it quickly enough to be of use. ■

LIVING LEGENDS



MEMORABLE

BULGE INCIDENTS

UNEDITED AND HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

Accounts of events and experiences in the Battle of the Bulge as recalled and expressed by veterans of the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army in the greatest war ever fought are of much historical significance. These "close-up" combatant accounts are a complement to the study of strategy and logistics and are a legacy of an important battle and victory in the U.S. military annals.

These are priceless first-person recollections by living legends in what General Dwight D. Eisenhower foresaw as our greatest victory and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in speaking before the House of Commons, characterized as an ever-famous American victory.

A GERMAN P-38??

December 1944

George F. Cook
486th Ordnance Evacuation Company
Jacksonville, Florida

It was just before the Battle of the Bulge. We were in Verviers, Belgium, using a school house for quarters. It was a Saturday afternoon and fairly quiet except for the V-2 rockets overhead that cut off as they headed for Liege.

Suddenly a fighter plane swooped down, strafing the street. I ducked into a recessed doorway of a house across the street. It was over in seconds. As I turned around and stood there surveying what damage it caused, I saw the P-38 making a big arc for another pass at us.

When it came over this time, several gunners opened fire with our 50 caliber machine guns. I again ducked into the same recessed doorway.

The gunners said it left smoking and that the P-38 had German markings on the plane.

The captain came running out, furious as hell. He said he was going to court martial the gunners for firing on an American P-38. He didn't get the chance to do it, because when the Battle of the Bulge started he was quickly transferred to 9th Army Headquarters to help coordinate armor movement.

I saw the P-38 but did not see the German markings as I was hugging the doorway. I later heard the Germans used captured P-38's to infiltrate bomber formations.

I think the plane was more interested in the new tanks that we had parked in the street. It must have been a picture taking mission with the strafing as secondary.

Over the years at our reunions many versions of this keep changing. This is my best recollection of what happened.

PRISONER OF WAR?

December 16, 1944

Wendell C. Obermeier
75th Infantry Division
899th Field Artillery Battalion
Charles City, Iowa

December 16, 1944, Hitler started his all-out offensive to drive a wedge through the allied forces. We know that operation as the Battle of the Bulge.

The 75th Division arrived in France on the same day this great battle started. My unit, the 899th Field Artillery Battalion, was part of Division Artillery. We fired our howitzers at the enemy on December 29th. We were now in the battle.

When the German attack started, they attempted to disrupt the allied defense by parachuting English speaking, highly trained German soldiers, dressed in American uniforms, carrying U.S. weapons, and wearing dog tags. These spies attempted to cause chaos by changing road signs, misleading troops and many acts of sabotage. These Nazi spies were dropped behind American lines and caused real problems in some areas.

To counteract this, allied forces set up road blocks and checked all soldiers. At the check points they would question everyone with questions referring to American slang--baseball talk, such as line drive, Texas leaguer, etc. Things that only true Americans would know.

On January 2, 1945, my survey crew and I were making a reconnaissance for new battery positions in case we had to displace to support our unit.

We were stopped at one of these check points. Evidently, my answers to questioning was not conclusive that I was not a spy. I was disarmed and separated from my crew who were also under interrogation.

From the check point, I was taken, at gun point, to MP headquarters and questioned further.

Probably part of the problem was my characteristics. I am of German descent, 6 foot tall, blond, fair skinned, blue eyes, butch haircut, and name on my dog tag, Obermeier--no wonder they were hard to convince! I finally persuaded them to contact my division through corps headquarters. A couple of radio calls and I was released and my weapon returned. I rejoined my survey crew. We continued on, finished our mission, and returned to our unit.

When anyone asks me: were you a prisoner of war? I have to say yes; then explain I was a prisoner of war of our own forces for a short time.

This was my most unusual incident in my two years overseas.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

We would love to have your story for this series. If you submitted one and it was not used, take a good look at it. It should be about **one incident which happened to you or someone else**. Make it as brief as possible. Many times a little background is necessary but if it tracks you and/or your unit for days and days, it does not apply to this series. It can be humorous or serious, but it must be about **one incident**.

So, come on. Send us your story. Many tell us: "I can't write that well." We're not giving out a Pulitzer Prize--we're only interested in sharing Bulge stories and experiences and your buddies are anxious to read your remembrances. Thanks.

SHERMAN TANK DEDICATED



CLYDE M. GRUBB, COMPANY A, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, standing beside WWII Sherman Tank dedicated at the Remember 39-48 Museum in Clermont, Belgium. Approximately 700 people attended the ceremonies.

CLANG, CLANG, CLANG WENT THE TROLLEY



Members of the Delaware Valley Chapter VBOB "made their mark" in the Memorial Day parade along Lancaster Avenue in Wayne, PA., as some sixty members turned out to remember the honored dead of all wars.

Stan Wojtusik, president of the chapter, and also national Vice President for Military Affairs, added an innovation for this year's march. Stan hired an open-air trolley for those who wished to participate in the parade, but for health reasons didn't think they could handle the 90 degree plus weather.

It was a good thing because the vehicle, which usually serves as a tour bus for Philadelphia's famed Fairmount Park, was there for the 30 ex-GIs who climbed aboard for the trolley version of the march.

With the 30 other VBOBers on foot, the chapter received tremendous applause along the route, with hundreds of spectators calling out: "Thank you for what you did!" as the vets passed by.

Stan was proud of the reception, and said that the overwhelming reaction could have been the result of a local TV station airing a documentary about the Battle of the Bulge the evening before the parade.

Immediately following the march, the chapter drove to our international monument nearby at Valley Forge Military Academy and College. There a special ceremony was held to remember the comrades we lost in the Ardennes 54 years ago.



"But he couldn't have done anything wrong, Sarge--he's been here six months and never left the house!"

RESERVATION FORM

"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"

55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

December 15 & 16, 1999

Washington, DC Area

Return form and check by December 4, 1998 to:

Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20895-0181

Dorothy Davis

Telephone: 301-881-0356

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Battle of Bulge Unit: _____

Name of Spouse/Guest: _____

I/we will attend the following activities (please complete):

	No. Persons Attending:	Cost/ Person	Total Cost
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1999:			
10:15 a.m. Visit to the New Ft. Meade Museum	_____		
12:30 p.m. Luncheon at Ft. Meade Gold Course	_____	\$12.00	_____
1:45 p.m. Visit the Battle of the Bulge Room	_____		
1:45 p.m. Visit the National Archives II (Adelphi, MD) (Share a Ride)	_____		
6:00 p.m. COMMEMORATIVE BANQUET Ft. Meade Officer's Club	_____	\$38.00	_____
<i>Please select your dinner main course:</i>			
___ Prime Rib of Beef au jus			
___ Stuffed Fillet of Flounder			

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1999:

9:45 a.m. Bus to Arlington Cemetery (Round trip)	_____	\$10.00	_____
Departs Holiday Inn Lobby			
Those not staying at the hotel may also ride the bus...make reservations and pay fare.			
11:00 a.m. Ceremonies: Tomb of Unknown Soldier/VBOB Memorial			
1:15 p.m. Change of Command Luncheon/Holiday Inn	_____	\$8.00	_____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(Make checks payable to "BoBHF Commemoration")

Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie/military dress uniform. (Miniature medals encouraged).

REMINDERS:

Room reservations must be made by December 1, 1999/Tel: 1-800-477-4710

Return completed Reservation Form by December 4, 1999 (Tel: 1-301-881-0356)

No cancellation refund after December 5, 1999.

COME JOIN YOUR FRIENDS!
"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

December 15 and 16, 1999
Washington, DC Area

The Holiday Inn, 3400 Ft. Meade Road (Route 198), Laurel, MD has been selected as the hotel for the Commemoration of the 55th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 15 and 16, 1999. This is a new addition to the former Holiday Inn and is located a few minutes outside of Ft. Meade, MD where some of our activities will be held. The reduced rate of \$79.00 plus tax will be available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 18 (single or double occupancy). For room reservations please call *The Holiday Inn*, 1-800-477-7410 by December 1. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Battle of the Bulge events.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1999:

- 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Registration (outside Hospitality Room); receive name tags and Banquet tickets. Registration and Hospitality Room will also be open on Tuesday evening, December 14, 1999, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Hospitality Room/Exhibits/Displays hosted by John Bowen and Earle Hart, Battle of the Bulge historians. **COME MEET YOUR FRIENDS!**
- 10:00 a.m. Travel by private car to the Ft. Meade Museum
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. A visit to the Renovated Ft. Meade Army Museum
*Reception with Ft. Meade officials
*Greetings from Ft. Meade
*Tour of the exhibits and displays
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Luncheon at the Ft. Meade Golf Course
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Viewing of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Room
Return to hotel. Free time
- 1:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Note:* For those who would like to visit the Archives II, Adelphi, MD, John Bowen will be available to give you a tour of this interesting facility.
About 35 minutes from the hotel.
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet at the Ft. Meade Officer's Club
- 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar
- 7:00 p.m. Guests seated/Color Guard/Welcome Ceremonies
Dinner served
Program: The speaker will be noted historian *LEWIS SORLEY*, author of the book, *Thunderbolt*, about General C. Abrams.
- After the Banquet: Hospitality Room will be open

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1999:

- 10:00 a.m. Bus transportation will be provided for trip to Arlington National Cemetery
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Impressive ceremony, placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by the Ceremony of Remembrance at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial
- 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Return to Holiday Inn
- 1:15 p.m. Buffet Luncheon, Holiday Inn
- Swearing in of new officers. Comments by incoming President
- 2:15 p.m. Farewell

BELGIAN VETERANS

[Excerpted from information provided by STAN C. BELLENS, whose oldest brother was a member of the 11TH BELGIAN FUSILIER BATTALION.]

5th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion:

The 5th BFB was made up of all Belgian volunteers and was placed under the orders of the 12th U.S. Army Group on December 1, 1944. This battalion was responsible for U.S. army depots and communications centers. They performed in Belgium between December, 1944, and February, 1945, then in Germany between February and May, 1945, in the Cassel-Witzenhausen-Muhlhausen and Gotha region.

During the German offensive in December, 1944, the 5th Fusilier Battalion established a defensive line to protect the U.S. army depots located on the northern sector of the German advancing troops. The 5th BFB was also in charge of controlling the road Aywaille-Remouchamps, which was located 20 kilometers from the furthest points reached by the well known Kampfgruppe Peiper, which was never able to go further than the railroad station of Stoumont. For a good reason the road between Aywaille and Remouchamps was never recognized as a part of the Bulge.

The 4th Company was responsible for the security of the Malmedy Railroad Station and it participated in the evacuation of the town refugees. This could be considered a rear echelon mission to help the 1st U.S. Army.

6th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion:

This battalion was strictly a volunteer unit. They were under the command of the 12th Army Group of the U.S. Army as of December 12, 1944.

The battalion command post was in the Town of Waldheim from December 13 to December 30, 1944, when it was transferred to the Town of Aubel until February 10, 1945.

Various companies of this battalion were responsible for the security of U.S. Military installations in the areas of Vise, Eupen and Steinbruck (German border), then it moved to Germany where it was in Stolberg, Eschweiler and Brandt.

During the German offensive in the Ardennes in December, 1944, the 6th Fusilier Battalion was strafed and bombed by the German luftwaffe in the Eisenborn area.

From February 9, 1945, to March, 1945, some sections of the battalion were assigned to defend the Headquarters of the U.S. Army VII Corps in Eupen and later in Germany.

Between March 22 and 26, 1945, three companies of the 6th battalion were assigned to the northern flank of the U.S. Army spearhead towards the Remagen Bridge, along the river Sieg and not too far away from Bonn.

From March 26, 1945, the battalion was located on the east bank of the River Rhine, which it had crossed at Bad-Godesberg following the U.S. combat troops towards Marburg and Nordhausen, where the 6th participated in the efforts to save the political prisoners liberated from the Nazi Concentration Camp of Dora.

On April 2, 1945, the headquarters were moved to Eisleben and on April 30th, moved to Leipzig.

11th Belgian Fusilier Battalion:

This battalion was also an all volunteer group mainly coming from the underground resistance. As of December 10, 1944, the 11th was assigned to the 3rd Army, under the command of General Patton.

It was assigned the safeguard of communications lines and centers on the southern front in the Province of Luxembourg and later in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

The 11th was in the area of Wurzburg-Nuremberg-Bamberg on April 21, 1945.

On July 13 and 14, this battalion is reverted to the British Army Command and finally on November 21, 1945, it is reassigned to the new Belgian Army.

[Stan is also a member of the Belgian Grateful Drivers Association. This group offers driving assistance to BoBers who return to their country. There is no charge for the service. You pay only for the gasoline. You can locate Stan at: 4, Rue de la Trompette, B4683 Hermee, Belgium.]

OUR RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY

By Carl DeVasto
26 INF 101 INF HQ

Soon the proud legacy of our generation will have no witnesses. If all else is forgotten, I hope that history will record that it was those who were called upon from our generation that allowed millions of humans to reclaim their fundamental rights and dignity. This they were deprived of by militaristic tyrants with no moral compass. The agenda practiced by these despots included genocide, ethnic cleansing, slave labor and crematoria. Extermination camps such as Auschwitz, Treblinka, and Bergen Belsen were used to gas and cremate millions of innocent. This decadent social structure had to be destroyed.

For years the free world trembled as Hitler's Third Reich goose-stepped across Europe flaunting their arrogance and crushing all opposition with impunity. They brought with them an age of darkness and despair to all but the favored few. The sound of "Heil Hitler," "Deutschland-Deutschland Uber Alles in der Welt" and hob-nailed boots echoed through households silenced by fear. All were humbled as the crooked cross passed in review. With very few exceptions we relegated the above to the dust bins of history and buried most who were responsible.

In places like Mon Schumann Crossroads east of Bastogne, Belgium, the hallowed ground is shrouded with the ghosts of greatness. Most were once members of my 26th Infantry Division, 101st Infantry Regiment. Their deaths were traded for the destruction of an ideology with no moral or ethical values. An ideology that was sweeping the world with reckless disregard for the dignity of man. Witness the camps and the ovens at Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen, Treblinka, Mathausen and Dachau.

Most were sacrificed on the threshold of their manhood depriving them of a future. They now rest in honored glory under white marble monuments in cemeteries across the world. We should be honor bound to perpetuate their memory and the reasons for their death. Their sacrifices, undeniably, allowed us a better world to live in.

Our grandchildren and theirs will some day visit these grave sites as we visit Arlington and Gettysburg today. They should know that these white marble monuments stand over the graves of young men and women who lost their lives meritoriously. These are the dead culled from a generation who were called upon in the middle of the 20th Century to form battalions, cross oceans and destroy an evil that had become a global threat.

I will forever be in their debt. **We should feel duty bound to extol the magnitude of their sacrifices.**

GLENN MILLER AND THE AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN

By Joseph P. Barrett
474th Antiaircraft Artillery (SP) Battalion

On December 16, 1944, Major Glenn Miller died when his airplane crashed into the English Channel. The American soldier was able to listen to his personally led band as it broadcast from BBC in London. We had now been on the continent for seven months. It is a strange coincidence but the good fortunes of his fans in the American Army also took a turn for the worse on this very day because it was the opening day of the Battle of the Bulge. In the next five weeks 75,000 men who loved his music would fall in battle. Some 8,497 would die, 46,000 wounded and 21,000 missing or would spend the rest of the war in POW camps. One of their deprivations was that this was the first time in their lives that they couldn't hear his music.

We heard this band live from London. The soldiers called it The Band of the American Expeditionary Forces, the band of the AEF. We would tune in on our small, portable radios, and listen to the greatest music of the Big Band Era. Because Miller had the pick of the best of the musicians who, like everyone else, had been drafted into the army. He beefed up his swing band with cellists, violins, French horns and even harps. Everyone an enlisted man and most of whom went on to fame in the peacetime concert world.

This great music coming from London until December, 1944, and later from Paris flowed across Europe. From Normandy across France, Germany, and down into Italy. At war's end we had two million men in arms in the European Theatre of Operations which did not include the Mediterranean Theater.

These soldiers were the jitterbugs, cookie pushers, drug store cowboys and zoot-suitors of the late 30's and early 40's. They were the guys who danced in the aisles when Bennie Goodman opened at the Paramount. They were the callow American youth which Adolph Hitler said was soft and no match for the German Wehrmacht.

They were the same guys who walked down a thousand different roads, rifle slung over their shoulders heading for the next battle. Can you visualize the jitterbug at the Paramount being the same infantry man with the rifle--yet, they were. And they were the same guys who became the famous GI of World War II. Many times we would watch and laugh when two American soldiers, having no girls to dance with, would dance by themselves--in complete battle gear.

It may be difficult to believe but this same jitterbug answered the call of his welders speaking through the local draft board and took up his rifle and marched off. Whenever the infantry man got a break, he'd lay down his rifle, take off his ammo belt, set aside the steel helmet and open up the canteen for a drink of water. It was never fresh. Never cool. Always warm. And the chances were as he sat, maybe near a platoon headquarters or company command post where a company clerk or mess sergeant had tuned in the Armed Services Network and this tired soldier would hear:

Let us stay 'till break of day
In love's valley of dreams
Just you and I and a summer sky
A heavenly breeze kissing the trees.

So don't let me wait
Come to me tenderly
In the June night
I stand at your gate
And I sing you a song
In the moonlight.
A love song my darling.

"The Moonlight Serenade." For a brief instant the combat soldier who was really a kid--they were all kids--was a real kid once again. And in his mind he was twisting a teen-age high school girl, wearing bobby socks and a swirling pleated skirt in a high school gym to music played by a disk jockey. They danced under a large gilded globe which sent rays of multi-colored light around the dance floor, turning the bleak gym into a fantasy land.

The sharp staccato of a whistle blew. This quickly brought him back to reality. His cold fingers tried to twist the canteen cap back on, but the damned small chain which attached it to the can always got tangled and made the simple task of twisting the cap onto the can a chore. But it's done and he slid the can into the canteen cup attached to the canvas holder, attached to the ammo belt. He reached out for his 10-pound M-1 rifle or a bazooka or maybe the 129 pound Browning automatic .50 caliber machine gun and struggled to is frozen feet. So many times a soldier fell to the ground exhausted. He reached the limits of his extremities. Oh, God, I can't take another step. And then some son of a bitch blew a whistle..."OK, you bastards. Off your ass and on your feet...we're moving up." And the exhausted soldier struggled to his feet, pulled himself up and with a strenuous effort got one foot out in front of the other and the long line of soldiers slowly moved down the dirt road. No sense lifting the head. Too much effort. Just keep watching the brown olive drab pants leg stuffed down into the leggings of the man in front. As long as his feet kept moving the infantry line kept moving.

As he moved away from the portable radio, he could hear his old music-filled world crumbling as Bing Crosby's reassuring voice slowly faded in the distance.

Sun burns at the shore
Nights at Singapore
You might have been a headache
But never a bore

Feet crunch ahead. A step at a time. The music finally disappears...."Thanks for the Memory."

And he faced his dismal future. The crash of the German 88 is louder. The rat-a-tat-tat of the machine guns is sharper. But for a brief moment he was home again. At a dance in the gym. Or maybe a high school prom. A world so far away that now it seemed non-existent. And as the jitterbug fell to the ground, his once lithe and agile body now a crumpled, bloody mess, his last memories were of a serenade in the moonlight.

This music was heard in fox holes, pup tents, field kitchens, small air bases in open fields in France, military hospitals, farm houses where the lucky ones holed up and even big mansions and grand chateaux where the brass in top commands lived in style.

This great American Glenn Miller wasn't drafted into the army like most of the GI's. He volunteered to follow his fans into battle. And to the grave. Even though his turned out to be a watery grave. But he volunteered to go where his fan, the jitterbug went. He gave up the bright lights of New York to follow the doughfoot right into battle with his magnificent music.

And there is a strange twist to this story. The music of Glenn Miller died with him and the half a million or so GI's who died in battle in the ETO. It is no doubt true to say that not a single piece of Miller's style of music was added to the band's repertoire after his death, despite the efforts of Tex Beneke and other conductors who followed in his wake. The Glenn Miller Band crossed the Atlantic in January, 1944, and set up shop in London to play on the British Broadcasting Network. Because of the heavy bombing, Miller moved the musicians' living quarters to the suburbs. The following week the apartment house where they had been living was demolished by German bombers.

(Continued on next page)

GLENN MILLER

For the next eleven months until mid-December when the bank packed for the trip to France, Glen Miller, his writers and arrangers, composed some of the most original swing music ever heard. One of his arrangers, Glenn Gray, missed the ill-fated airplane trip because of a head cold. One of the things the army doesn't receive credit for is that they tried hard to put the right man in the right job. And most of the musicians played in army service units and entertained the troops. A GI could go into any small town a weekend pass in Tennessee during maneuvers and hear a great little band composed of musician-soldiers.

Glen Miller could pick and chose the best of the draftee-musicians. The music they played was never recorded in a recording studio, it just went out over the airwaves. I am afraid that most of it was lost and will never be heard again.

But this music was great because it was free of high priced executives who were playing for the dollar, seeking to appeal to the masses. There were no agents saying do this or don't do that.

These great musicians had only one objective: to make the American soldier happy. They had no other restrictions. One must realize that the only officer was Glenn Miller. The band was composed of enlisted men probably making around a hundred dollars a month or less. A private made 50 bucks a month. The star singer Johnnie Desmond was a sergeant. The GI's called him "the GI Sinatra." These musicians in khaki created wonderful music which will never be heard again. Although some of it was recorded off the air waves.

So the great music of the American Band of the AEF was just a surely buried in the military cemeteries as were the heroic jitterbugs of World War II.

There were 2 million GI's in the European Theater of Operations. There were 810,000 casualties, including 194,000 killed or missing. These are the jitterbugs, zoot-suitors, cookie pushers and drug store cowboys who aren't jitterbugging anymore.

They paid the price for our freedom.

When the peoples of the some 26 countries who were freed from the tyranny of the evil Nazi empire and the descendants of the victims of the holocaust condemn the Nazi for their persecution, they should remember that the price that was paid for their freedom was paid by the members of the Swing Era.

Every time that a song from the Swing Era is played, it is a salute to the American soldier who danced in the aisles in theaters in this golden age of jazz and especially when you hear the wonderful music of Major Glenn Miller and the great swing band of the American Expeditionary Forces, which was also known as the Army Air Force Band.

The words of "Moonlight Serenade" were provided by Sid Groinic of the music department of the Philadelphia Free Library. Words written by Mitchell Parish, music by Glenn Miller. Copyright by Robbins Music Corp.

The source of Glen Gray an arranger for the Miller Band as well as John Desmond being called a GI Sinatra was found in World War II, (New York 1983 and 1994) pps. 219 and 375. ■

PLEASE BE AWARE!!

We receive so much material for the newsletter that it is impossible for us to use it all. We try to restrict what goes into the newsletter to articles related to the Bulge. If you send in stories which appeared in newspapers, we can't use them unless you send along permission from the newspaper that we are allowed to republish it. We do not have the staff to secure permission to reprint. ■

ON THE MOVE WITH THE 18TH FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP

By Harvey H. Reese

The 18th Field Artillery Group was at Weisweiler, Germany, when it received the news of the "breakthrough into Belgium." On December 23rd, the 18th left Weisweiler for Somme Leuze, Belgium (8 miles north of Marche) to take its place in the line that was to drive the enemy back into Germany. Twelve hours were required by the group to make the 80-mile march because the narrow, and shell-torn roads were filled with heavy traffic.

The drive against "the Bulge" found the 18th with the 188th and 981st Field Artillery Battalions attached, and in general support, reinforcing the fires of the 3rd Armored Division Artillery. The 183rd and 991st FA Battalions were also attached before the end of the month, at which time the group also was reinforcing the fires of the 83rd Infantry Division Artillery.

the group moved to Bohon, Belgium, December 24th, and there it spent Christmas. The 18th stayed at Bohon during the rest of December.

On the first day of 1945, the 18th group was in general support, and reinforcing the fires of the 83rd Division. Its headquarters was in Bohon, Belgium, and its attached battalions were the 183rd, 188th, 666th, 981st and 991st Field Artillery Battalions.

On January 2nd the group moved a distance of 15 miles to Champ-de-Harre, Belgium, and on January 8th it moved 8 miles further to Tri-le-Cheslaing, and from there on the 10th, it moved the nine miles to Lierneux. After two days in that position, the unit moved five miles to Hebronvil, Belgium.

On January 24, 1945, the group was relieved from attachment to the VII Corps, and attached to the 18th Airborne Corps. The group at that time had the 195th and 666th Battalions attached and reinforcing the fires of the 82nd Airborne Division. ■

MORE WEB SITES:

2nd Armored Division

<http://www.2ndarmoredhellonwheels.com>

6th Armored Division

<http://members.aol.com/super6th>

**19th Annual
VBOB Reunion
Omni
Newport News Hotel
Newport News, VA
September 23-27, 1999
MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

CAPTURED? IT NEVER ENTERED MY MIND

By Arthur S. Lipski
28 INFD 112 INF C

I started law school in 1939, way before any one thought of war. When the war came, I tried to enlist asking if I could finish law school and they refused. A few months before I would have graduated, I was drafted. This was in September of 1942 and I would have graduated in December. I went to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, where I studied, took the Bar and passed it. However, I never practiced law, entering civil service.

I was in Wiltz, Luxembourg on December 18, 1944, where we were told to move out and dig fox holes. The Germans were approaching. We did so. When the holes were completed, we were told to move back to Wiltz. The next day we were told again to move out. We boarded trucks and hit a road block not far from Bastogne. I jumped off the truck, as did everyone else. I had the misfortune of being severely wounded by a shell. Other Americans put me in an ambulance. The Germans mopped up the pocket, captured or killed every one and drove vehicles away. I was in an ambulance and thus I had the honor of becoming a prisoner of war.

This was about midnight on December 19th. It was unbelievable. One never thinks of becoming a prisoner. You can get killed, but captured? It never entered my mind. I was badly wounded in the leg. I almost had to have it amputated. I have crippled fingers, body and head, wounds all over. In fact, I was 100% disabled.

In prison it was horrible as they say in German, "Schrecklich." I am Jewish. I had to pretend to be Catholic or they would kill me. Fortunately I had studied four years of German in high school and was semi-fluent in German.

In the prison there was a Polish doctor who had been captured at Warsaw. One day he kept insisting that I was Jewish. I told him "no." Hypothetically, I would tell you, I would never confess under torture or bribery to that...God knows what would happen to a Jewish person in Germany. I told him, "I can't take any more. Do what you want I've had it. Enough of this. I don't care any more." The Polish doctor told me, "Lipski, the only reason I have to know is that they are bringing in a Polish prisoner. You are now semi-ambulatory I want you to see that he gets his food." Needless to say, I listened.

I've worn glasses since I was five years old. When I was hurt my glasses were shattered. I was almost blind. In prison a German guard offered to get my glasses for my wristwatch. He could have merely taken the watch from me--I was in no position to stop him which would have been useless. I didn't know what day, week, or time it was and I didn't care. I had my prescription and I gave it to him. He went to a German hospital, told them it was for a severely wounded German soldier, got the glasses and gave them to me. From then on, I was en route to becoming a human being again. When I was eventually freed on March 27, 1945, he said, "Lipski, you are taking back the watch?" I told him, "No, *Geschäft ist Geschäft*, that means business is business. He was a gentleman. He got the glasses and he could keep the watch. I did not want the watch, I could have gotten a million more when I got back home.

The prison camp was ghastly. We were given soup, a slight bit

of potato every day two or three times a day, except for the days we didn't get anything to eat. The Germans very thoughtfully put their prison camp where I eventually ended up, Limburg, Germany--next to a railroad yard. The American planes bombed the railroad yard not knowing that American prisoners were right there. It was "lovely" as they say in *My Fair Lady*. The only time we were ever taken from the prison was to have an amputation. I was taken. I was scared crazy. But the point is that you don't let people know you're scared. The Polish doctor came up to me: "Lipski, what are you doing here?" I said, "You know what I'm doing here--to have my leg taken off." "It's a mistake," he said. I said, "No, no, I know what goes on." He said, "It's a mistake." I said, "Get me out of here." Would you believe that it was a mistake and to this day I have my leg. I limp badly and have a horrible time walking, but, thank God, I have my leg.

In November of 1944, we still wore those miserable leggings with the button holes. I made a bet that Roosevelt would beat Dewey in the election and with the money I won I bought a pair of paratroop boots. Those were the boots that I wore in Luxembourg when I was shot and captured. The Germans from time to time would take them from me. Apparently, they were short of shoes. When they would not fit them they would throw them down. I would crawl after then and get them back. I promised that if I would ever walk again I would walk in those shoes. Today, those shoes are on display in my book case. They are my proudest possession. I wanted to have them bronzed but my wife convinced me that it would be better to leave them normal and I did.

I have many a great story. I tell my story to people and they say, "Lipski, what did you do with your dog tags?" They were marked "J" for Jewish or "H" for Hebrew. I tell them, "I threw them away!" and they tell me, "Lipski, you broke the rule."

Suffice it to say that I starved, froze, was full of lice, took clothes off of the dead--it still sticks with me. In prison we had Russian, French, Italian, Czech, Polish and Hindu. You name it, we got it.

We all spoke German. The ones treated the worst were the Russians who were not members of the Geneva Convention. My buddies were Misha and Lonya, as long as I had cigarettes to bribe them to do little things for me.

MONUMENTS, MONUMENTS, MONUMENTS

We receive many requests to solicit members for donations to monuments all over this country and the ETO. While many are doubtless worthwhile endeavors, we simply do not have the funds or time to check them out. After the recent fiascos, many organizations have pulled back on recommending contributions. We do, of course, announce our chapters' solicitations for funds for monuments to the Battle of the Bulge and heartily endorse the World War II Monument to be built in Washington, D.C. ■

IF YOUR DUES WERE DUE IN 1998 (CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL), THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

REUNIONS

2ND CAVALRY ASSOCIATION, October 8-13, 1999, Radison Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact: Henry J. Ebrey, Jr., PO Box 915, Southeastern, Pennsylvania 19399-0915.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 30-September 5, 1999, Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Contact: Clell W. Hill, Box 336, Sparta, Illinois 62286.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION, (date not provided), Knoxville, Tennessee. Contact: Charles Barry, 947 "A" Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335. Telephone: 814-333-8501.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 2ND TANK BATTALION, September 16-19, 1999, Rockford, Illinois. Contact: James Maney, 719 Reynolds Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103. Telephone: 815-965-5274.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 12-19, 1999, Adam's Mark Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Joseph Civitano. Telephone: 561-498-2814.

16TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, Year 2001, Garden City, Kansas. Contact: Philip E. Hand, PO Box 156, Royal Center, Indiana 46978-0156.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, October 20-24, 1999, Holiday Inn Oceanfront - Downtown, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Frank H. Pruitt, PO Box 886, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 11-14, 1999, Torrance, California. Contact: Nick Cipiti, 1425 Stonewood Court, Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90732.

304TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 76TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 23-26, 1999, Regal Maxwell House, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Jay M. Hamilton, 308 Medford Heights Lane, Medford, Oregon 97504. Telephone: 541-857-9296.

486TH ORDNANCE TANK EVACUATION COMPANY, September 20-23, 1999, Ithaca, New York. Contact: Tom Horton, 1100 Lydia Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40217-1249. Telephone: 502-634-8544.

501 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, August 26-28, 1999, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Contact: Glenn & Annie Johnson, 6133 Journeys End Rd, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501. Telephone: 715-362-6546.

556TH ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY (AW) BATTALION, September 23-26, 1999, Kings Island Inn, Kings Island, Ohio. Contact: Paul Waver, 212 Meadowcraft Lane, Media, Pennsylvania 19063. Telephone: 610-876-5327.

631ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, July 15-17, 1999, Holiday Inn, West Manchester Mall, Routes 30 & 74, York Pennsylvania. Contact: Charles Slenker, 12 South Clinton Street, York, Pennsylvania 17404.

635TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, September 15-19, 1999, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: Harold Senne, 1982 Regency Parkway, Topeka, Kansas 66604. Telephone: 785-273-2537.

774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, October 4-8, 1999, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: R. V. Brassard, 515 Lk Winnimessett Drive, DeLand, Florida 32724. Telephone: 904-734-2748.

2664TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 9-11, 1999, Hilton Greater Cincinnati Airport. Contact: Box Latz, 21 Stonewood Court, Racine Wisconsin 53402. Telephone: 414-681-1998.

NEWPORT NEWS TEMPERATURES...for September are: Average 71.7; high 79.0; and low 64.3

VETERANS' BENEFITS HANDBOOK

The 96-page, updated "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," handbook is now available for \$3.70, postage paid. Contact: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government, Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-93255. The stock order number is ISBN 0-16-036128. ■

MONTANA REMEMBERS

ROBERT W. VIVIAN, 416TH MILITARY POLICE PLATOON, from Butte, Montana, send it a "slew" of newspaper articles which relate activities in his city and state remembering World War II. Classes are offered, lectures are presented, and veterans speak to high school classes regarding the holocaust and war experiences. ■

MISTAKES

[This little note was published in one of the many association newsletters we receive--however, I lost the name of the organization and can't give proper credit.]

If you find any mistakes in our publication please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone and there are some people among us who are always looking for mistakes....■

The following excerpts are from James Jones' book, *World War II*:

Many estimates have stated that the Ardennes campaign shortened the war by as much as a year. Certainly, it accelerated its end.

The American soldier, as he kicked his blankets up into a pile in the snow, and made up his pack with stiff hands, and prepared to move out forward again, wouldn't have known about that and at the moment, wouldn't have cared. Weary to the bone, frozen, cold-eyed now, cold-footed, and cold-hearted to the core, he was sure only that up ahead lay another river and beyond that another hill, and that surely beyond that hill was still another river to cross, on pontoons or by wading. He had passed through and beyond his final EVOLUTION OF A SOLDIER.

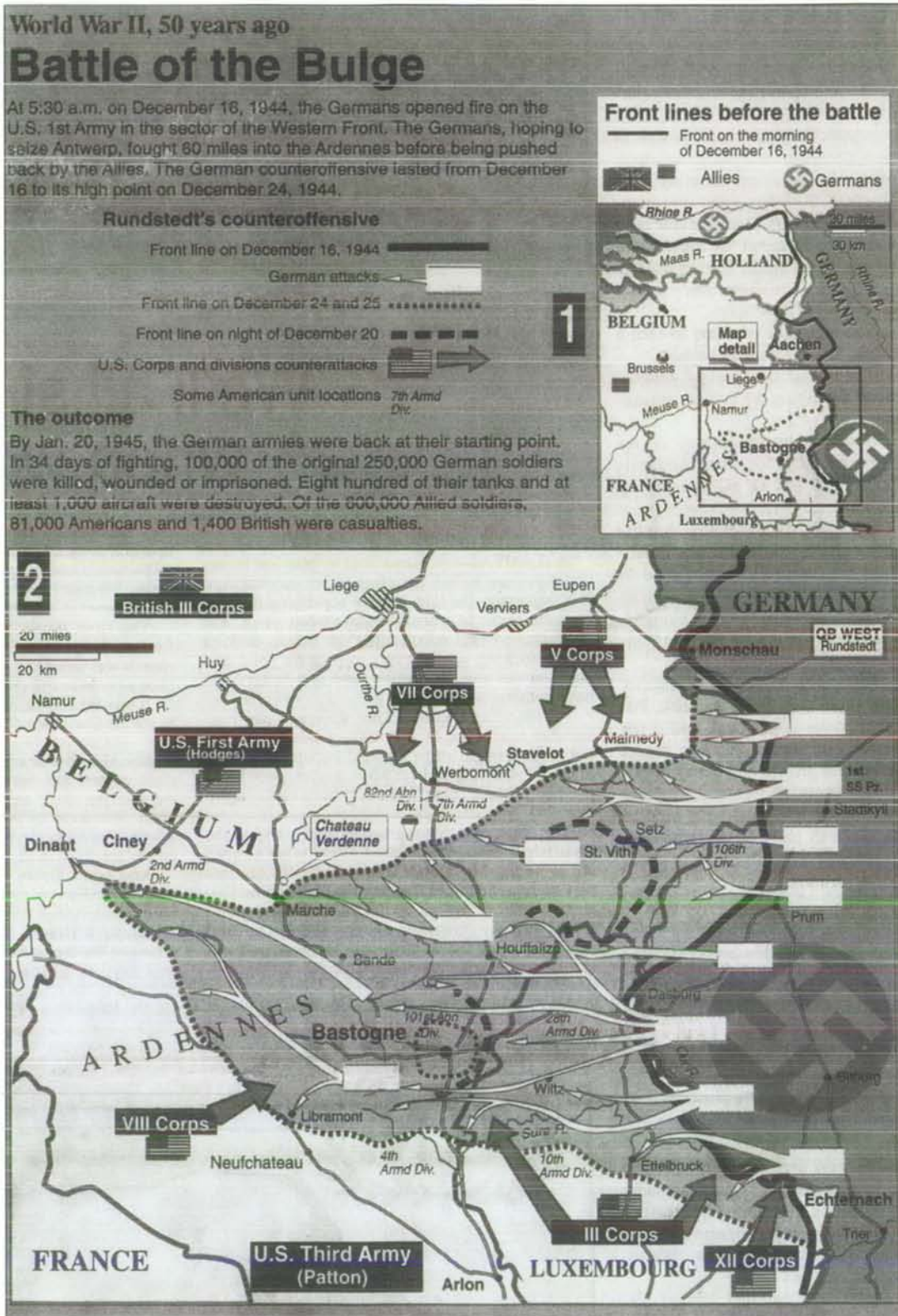
German prisoners, asked to assess their various enemies, have said that the British attacked singing, the French attacked shouting, but that the American attacked in silence. They liked better the men who attacked singing or shouting than the grimly silent men who kept coming on stubbornly without a sound. Any old GI (for Government Issue: that term he so hated to be called) would have told them with a sour smile that he kept his mouth shut because he did not want anyone to see how badly his teeth were chattering. The German almost assuredly would not have smiled.

NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

This issue of *The Bugle* contains four additional pages. We were getting so behind in publishing stories, we decided to add a few more pages. Hope you enjoy them.

MAP OF THE BULGE

Many members write to request a map of the Battle of the Bulge area. We reprint one here for you. This map appeared in the December 4, 1994, *Record-Journal*, of Meriden, Connecticut.



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER...

[The following excerpts are taken from a story which appeared in the Washington Post on Thursday, June 3, 1999.

It was written by Steve Vogel of the Post staff.]

Jim Smith did not suspect a thing, even when he arrived at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and saw Bob Dole was there.

Smith, a Harford County, Maryland, resident, thought he was attending a reunion with some of his World War III comrades from the 513th Parachute Infantry to mark National Armed Forces Day on May 15. They were holding it at the Korean memorial because one of the members of the regiment, Frank Gaylord, went on to become the sculptor of the memorial's 19 statues.

Smith, a retired high school football coach and public school administrator in Harford County, was impressed that Dole, the former Senate majority leader, who was severely wounded during fighting in Italy in World War II, would attend such an event. "Bob Dole?" Smith thought. "Boy, this is going to be a really big deal."

It was a big deal, but not for the reasons Smith imagined. Smith was awarded the Silver Star for heroism during the Battle of the Bulge in a surprise ceremony arranged by his World War II buddies.

One of those who arranged it was John Erdman, the man whose life Smith saved during the battle, and his friend to this day.

On a freezing day in January, 1945, outside Bastogne, in southeast Belgium, Smith, a sergeant, led a four-man patrol, including Pfc. Erdman, behind German lines. The four began crossing an open field of snow when they were met by fire. "We were raked with machine gun fire," Erdman recalled.

Smith managed to make it to a wood line, but the three others were trapped in a depression out in the open. Erdman covered the two other soldiers as they ran for cover, but one was hit by mortar fire and killed. Realizing he could be next, Erdman started belly-crawling his way toward the woods, but he was hit five times by sniper fire.

Smith managed to reach Erdman and saw that his condition was grave. He was bleeding profusely and was in shock. Smith remembers Erdman's face being as white as the snow on which he lay. "I said, 'I'm not going to leave you,'" Smith recalled.

Exposing himself to enemy fire, Smith pulled Erdman onto his back and carried him piggy-back to safety.

"I looked to my left and saw a sight I'll never, never forget," another soldier who was there, Derk Strikwerda, write in a witness statement. "With all hell breaking loose around us, Jim was carrying John Erdman on his back."

In the chaos of the war, paperwork recommending Smith for a medal was never completed. But during the last year, Strikwerda and Erdman worked to correct that oversight. After the Army agreed Smith should receive the Silver Star, the two contacted Dole, who agreed to present the medal. The 82nd Airborne Division sent an honor guard to the ceremony to salute a fellow paratrooper.

When Smith, now 74, arrived at the ceremony, looked at the program, and finally realized the whole gathering was in his honor, he shed a couple of tears. "It's nice for my family," he said. "I'm in the last quarter."

But Smith still does not think he did anything special. "I did what I thought a soldier should do for another soldier," he said. ■

AN ARMY NURSE REMEMBERS

By Jean Canders Rist
2nd Evacuation Hospital

Background

WWII started while I was in nurses training and I quickly switched my goal from air line stewardess to army nurse.

As the war escalated, I moved swiftly from Fort Adams, Rhode Island, to Camp Devens, Massachusetts, membership in the 16th General Hospital and basic training (complete with long marches, gas drills and crawling under "live" ammunition). We embarked from Boston December 28th, 1943, as part of a large convoy. As far as I know we encountered no hostile forces and arrived in Liverpool 10 days later.

From Omaha Beach on D-16, we followed the armies into Belgium and I was transferred to the 2nd Evacuation Hospital in Eupen where we treated 30,734 patients, from both sides, during the 114 consecutive days we were open, including the time in the Battle of the Bulge. We had the honor of being in continuous operation the longest period of any First Army Hospital.



Jean beside a plane shot down on New Year's Day 1944.

She administered anesthesia to the German pilot while his wounds were being treated.

Remembering

The day is cool and crisp and my eyes are drawn to a cloudless sky where a silver speck of airplane paints a chalk white line.

Each time I witness this phenomenon I am transported back to December, 1944, and the 2nd Evacuation Hospital in Eupen, Belgium. We'd been very busy for weeks and had sleet and fog for days. The ambulances continued to pour in bearing shattered young bodies, many with frostbite as well as fearsome wounds. The operating room functioned around the clock and my job was to administer anesthesia twelve hours a day, seven days a week.

Christmas Day, 1945, dawned bright and sunny with a brittle blue sky. Excited cries from a window drew our attention. U.S. Air Force planes were speeding toward us in countless numbers from three compass points, all headed to the east of Eupen. Their pure white vapor trails were a delight to our weary eyes. We stared in ecstatic joy as they neared and then in horror as we recognized the grey-black puffs of anti-aircraft guns sending probing fingers toward them. We anguished at the smoke and spiralling plunges as some were hit, but our brave fly-boys kept coming.

It was the turning point of World War II in Europe as Hitler's last big offensive was defeated. We later learned that we were the only hospital left in the area during the Battle of the Bulge. We'd been unaware that we'd been completely surrounded.

A vapor trail is a thrilling and beautiful sight to me still. ■

MEDAL OF HONOR

[Historian for the 80th Infantry Division, Edgar Bredbenner, Jr., (Company B, 318th Infantry Regiment), sent us the following information.]

80th Infantry Division:

DAY G. TURNER

Rank and organization: Sergeant, Company B, 319th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division

Place and date: At Dahl, Luxembourg, 8 January 1945.

He commanded a nine-man squad with the mission of holding a critical flank position. When overwhelming numbers of the enemy attacked under cover of withering artillery, mortar, and rocket fire, he withdrew his squad into a nearby house, determined to defend it to the last man. The enemy attacked again and again and were repulsed with heavy losses. Supported by direct tank fire, they finally gained entrance, but the intrepid sergeant refused to surrender although five of his men were wounded and one was killed. He boldly flung a can of flaming oil at the first wave of attackers, dispersing them, and fought doggedly from room to room, closing with the enemy in fierce hand-to-hand encounters. He hurled hand grenade for hand grenade, bayoneted two fanatical Germans who rushed a doorway he was defending and fought on with the enemy's weapons when his own ammunition was expended. The savage fight raged for 4 hours, and finally, when only three men of the defending squad were left unwounded, the enemy surrendered. Twenty-five prisoners were taken, 11 enemy dead and a great number of wounded were counted. Sergeant Turner's valiant stand will live on as a constant inspiration of his comrades. His heroic, inspiring leadership, his determination and courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest tradition of the military service. (He was the only man to receive the Medal of Honor fighting in the Country of Luxembourg.)

(Sgt Turner was awarded the Medal posthumously. He died February 8, 1945, and is buried in the American Military Cemetery, Hamm, Luxembourg. He also was awarded the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.)

PAUL J. WIEDORFER

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant (then Private), Company G, 318th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division

Place and date: Near Chaumont, Belgium, 25 December 1944

He alone made it possible for his company to advance until its objective was seized. Company G had cleared a wooded area of snipers, and 1 platoon was advancing across an open clearing toward another wood when it was met by heavy machine gun fire from 2 German positions dug in at the edge of the second wood. These positions were flanked by enemy riflemen. The platoon took cover behind a small ridge approximately 40 yards from the enemy position. There was no other available protection and the entire platoon was pinned down by the German fire. It was about noon and the day was clear, but the terrain extremely difficult due to a 3-inch snowfall the night before over ice-covered ground. Pvt Wiedorfer, realizing that the platoon advance could not continue until the 2 enemy machine gun nests were destroyed, voluntarily charged alone

across the slippery open ground with no protecting cover of any kind. Running in a crouched position, under a hail of enemy fire, he slipped and fell in the snow, but quickly rose and continued forward with the enemy concentrating automatic and small-arms fire on him as he advanced. Miraculously escaping injury, Pvt Wiedorfer reached a point some 10 yards from the first machine gun emplacement and hurled a hand grenade into it. With his rifle he killed the remaining Germans, and, without hesitation, wheeled to the right and attacked the second emplacement. One of the enemy was wounded by his fire and the other 6 immediately surrendered. This heroic action by 1 man enabled the platoon to advance from behind its protecting ridge and continue successfully to reach its objective. A few minutes later, when both the platoon leader and the platoon sergeant were wounded, Pvt Wiedorfer assumed command of the platoon, leading it forward with inspired energy until the mission was accomplished.

(Paul survived the war and is still living. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 318th Infantry were attached Christmas Eve, 1944, to the 4th Armored for support during the push into Bastogne—a fact that is little known, even to historians.)

Medal of Honor Facts: The following facts were excerpted from an article in the VBOB Northwest Chapter newsletter, Spring, 1999:

It is the highest military award that can be bestowed upon a member of the United States Armed Forces. Teddy Roosevelt lobbied for one but never received it. General Patton said, "I'd sell my immortal soul for that medal."

The first army recipient of the medal was Jacob Parrot on March 25, 1863; the navy's first was March 25, 1863; the first marine was during the Civil War; the first Air Force was January 19, 1967; and only one Coast Guard and it was awarded for service in WWII.

There have been 3,428 medals awarded with the majority having been received by army men. As of March 24, 1998, there were 165 living recipients of the Medal of Honor. ■

A REAL 'BLOCKBUSTER

Blockbuster, Inc. pledged \$250,000 toward the National World War II Memorial on behalf of 24 veterans organizations. During the months of June, July and August Blockbuster stores will feature a World War II Memorial public service announcement on in-store monitors. Blockbuster (www.blockbuster.com) and the National World War II Memorial (www.wwiimemorial.com) will establish "hot links" between the web sites. ■

AMERITECH & SENIOR NET ESTABLISH WEB SITE

Ameritech and Senior Net have developed the Ameritech World War II Living Memorial Web Site (www.seniornet.org/ww2) with the help of a \$1.1 million Ameritech grant. The site offers stories of men and women at home and abroad. It is offered to help people learn about the war. ■

A BRIEF HISTORY 150TH ENGINEER BATTALION

*[Excerpted from review prepared by CURTIS F. SHAW,
MEDIC, 150TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION]*

The 150th was activated in March 1943 with approximately 600 men, mostly all coming from New England.

After basic training at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts, our training continued in West Virginia, then we went overseas on the Queen Mary, landing in Grenock, Scotland, December 30, 1943.

We trained in England, building Bailey bridges, treadway bridges, infantry support rafts, and 25 ton pontoon bridges. Other training sites were on mines, demolition, roads, etc.

We left England, and arrived on Omaha Beach, July 3, 1943. After the breakthrough at St. Lo, we were attached to different cavalry and infantry divisions.

We were at Sarreinsming when the BoB started. Leaving Sarreinsming, we arrived at the Bulge with Patton's 3rd Army just at Christmas time.

Mine fields were hastily prepared, bridges prepared for demolition, trees notched and explosives in place, roads sanded, and men providing security on bridges.

Once the enemy started to be pushed back, we then, once again built the bridges for the river crossings. The 150th built the first bridge crossing the Rhine River at Oppenheim. When the war ended, we were in Czechoslovakia.

The 150th was a highly decorated battalion having earned their awards by building over 300 bridges, many under heavy artillery and small arms fire. ■

BULGE REMEMBRANCE

By John W. Slabinski, 75th Infantry Division,
290th Infantry, 1st Battalion, Company D

The 75th Division landed in France in November, 1944. We stayed in camp site for several weeks. When the Germans broke through and created the Bulge, our division was broken up into small fighting units.

December 23 found "A" Company, two squads of heavy machine guns and two of our 81 mm mortars settling in a little village (can't remember the name). A patrol was sent out into the heavy woods and they encountered many Germans. They reported back and we dug in.

A tank had led us into the village. The next day the tank left the village maybe to engage the Germans. After a short distance, we saw the tank stop and catch fire. No survivors.

Still no contact with the Germans on Christmas Day. I noticed an abandoned half track of ours at the edge of a field. Being nosey, I went to it with a buddy and looked it over. I found two containers under the seats of the half track. One container had cartons of cigarettes and the other had candy bars.

I took these back to our area. After saving a few packs of cigarettes and candy bars, I passed them out to our men and "A" Company riflemen. My Christmas present to them.

Receiving word that Germans were all around us, we waited until dark and were led back to our lines by two 82nd paratroopers. After a short distance, machine gun fire pinned us down. The two paratroopers left us and destroyed the two machine gun nests.

We proceeded back to our lines to regroup. After 30 days on the line we were given a three day rest period--showers, clean clothes, etc., then on to Colmar, France, to clean up a large pocket of Germans. On February 2, badly wounded by an anti-personnel mine, hospitalized for 10 months, I was medically discharged on October 2, 1945. ■

965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION By Michael F. O'Connor

On the 20th of December, a recon party headed by Sgt. Cecil Gregg, reported an isolated 155 mm Howitzer in a field at Grufflange. Sgt. Edward D. Arata secured permission from his battery commander to locate the piece, he enlisted volunteers from each of the 4 gun sections. Sgt. Louis Olivieri provided him with a Diamond T prime mover and driver Dick Smith to relieve the gun. Sgt. Arata proceeded to the location about 3 miles away and found the howitzer, still up on its jacks with the spades dug in ready for firing, the cannoneers who set up the gun must have left in a panic. After removing the piece to A Battery location in Braunlauf an inspection revealed the howitzer in excellent condition. Lt. Randolph Kelly ordered the piece into service. Gunnery Corporal Robert M. Barrett adjusted the gun on a compass angle of 800 mils along with the other 4 howitzers onto St. Vith supporting the 7th Armored Division. This extra fire power helped immensely in delaying the spearheads of the German 18th, 62nd and Fuehrer Begleit Brigade, preventing their access to the area.

Sgt Arata and his crew continued to use this extra fire power during the rest of the Bulge, inflicting severe damage onto the advancing Germans. They kept this 5th howitzers in operation all the way to Cologne plain, while firing across the Rhine River near Bonn about the 7th of March, army ordnance finally caught up with Sgt. Arata and took the howitzer back, much to the dismay of his volunteer crew.

The 965th Field Artillery Battalion, Battery A, would like to know if anyone can shed any light on this lone howitzer? ■

NOW AVAILABLE

Battle of the **BULGE** as reported in **THE STARS AND STRIPES**

Front page STARS AND STRIPES reproductions cover the brutal BULGE action in the frozen Ardennes, Dec. 16, '44 - Jan. 25, '45. "The most terribly costly battle in US History". From London, Paris and Rome editions. Rare WWII battle action reports to be treasured, and shared.

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The Sherman Tank

[The following article appeared in the April, 1999, newsletter Super Sixer. The newsletter of the 6th Armored Division.]

The U.S. Army's M1A1 Abrams main battle tank was one of the stars of the 1991 Gulf war. With excellent fire-power, armor, and mobility, it was nearly invincible in combat, and proved itself to be one of the best tanks ever made.

American tanks have not always ruled the battlefield. Less than 50 years earlier, the Army's workhorse tank, the famous M4 Sherman, was frequently outmatched by heavier German tanks like the Panther and Tiger. Nonetheless, the Sherman became the most widely-used tank of the war and saw action in both Europe and the Pacific.

Conceived and built in 1942, the Sherman's design was shaped by the Army's vision of how tanks would be used in combat. Army planners believed that the principal mission of tanks was to support the infantry, which would do the bulk of the fighting. Whenever the infantry achieved a "breakthrough" in enemy lines, tanks would pour through the gap and rampage in the rear areas.

According to this theory, tanks were not supposed to fight enemy tanks. The mission of tank killing instead fell to towed anti-tank guns and "tank-destroyers," which were essentially self-propelled anti-tank guns with light armor.

With these goals in mind, the Sherman's designers emphasized speed and mechanical reliability over fire-power and protection. Unfortunately, combat experience would show that tanks--not tank destroyers--were usually the best way to deal with enemy armor.

Initially, the Sherman served well in combat. In late 1942, the British used Shermans in North Africa against early-model Axis tanks and found them useful. But German tank technology was improving rapidly and, by 1944, the Sherman was decidedly

inferior to the enemy's latest armored vehicles. A major problem was its 75mm main gun, which had difficulty penetrating heavier armor. The gun was unable to penetrate the frontal armor of many German tanks even when firing from point-blank range!



Lend-Lease M-4 Sherman being unloaded in Algeria in 1943.

Unfortunately, German guns had little difficulty penetrating the Sherman's lighter armor, even from long distances. Also worrisome to the crews was the fact that Shermans tended to catch fire easily when hit, which complicated things for survivors still inside.

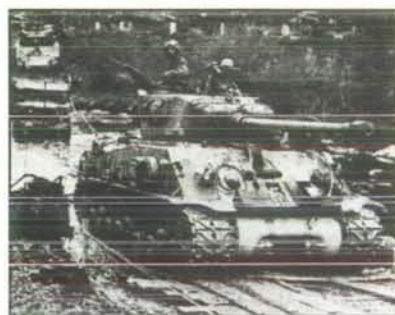
The Sherman did have certain advantages. It was quick and maneuverable, and exhibited high mechanical reliability--unlike the German Tiger and Panther tanks, which experienced frequent breakdowns. Also, its turret was powered by a hydraulic and electric system that enabled it to rotate more quickly than those of enemy tanks, which were frequently turned by a hand crank. The Sherman's quick-turning turret often allowed it to get off a crucial first shot in a tank duel.

The Sherman's greatest advantage was its sheer numbers. American crews would often defeat superior enemy tanks by "ganging up" on them so that some of the Shermans could surround a target and get a shot at the weaker armor on its side or rear. Although this tactic worked, it was costly. American soldiers estimated that four Shermans were lost for every Panther or Tiger destroyed.

Although slow to respond to the tank's plight, the Army did begin to

introduce a new 76 mm gun that would equip half the Shermans in Europe by 1945. It was slightly more effective against tanks, but less useful against infantry. Also, the larger ammunition meant less rounds could be carried.

The Army also took steps to improve the tank's protection, and began to release a more heavily armored Sherman variant known as the "Jumbo." Although few of these tanks reached the front, they were valued by their units and used to spearhead attacks.



Sherman M4A3 with 76 mm gun fords on an Austrian stream in 1945.

More than 49,000 Shermans were built during the war. After the conflict, many allied armies used the Sherman as the basis for their tank force, and it would see action in many subsequent regional wars. It was even used in combat by Israel as late as 1973!

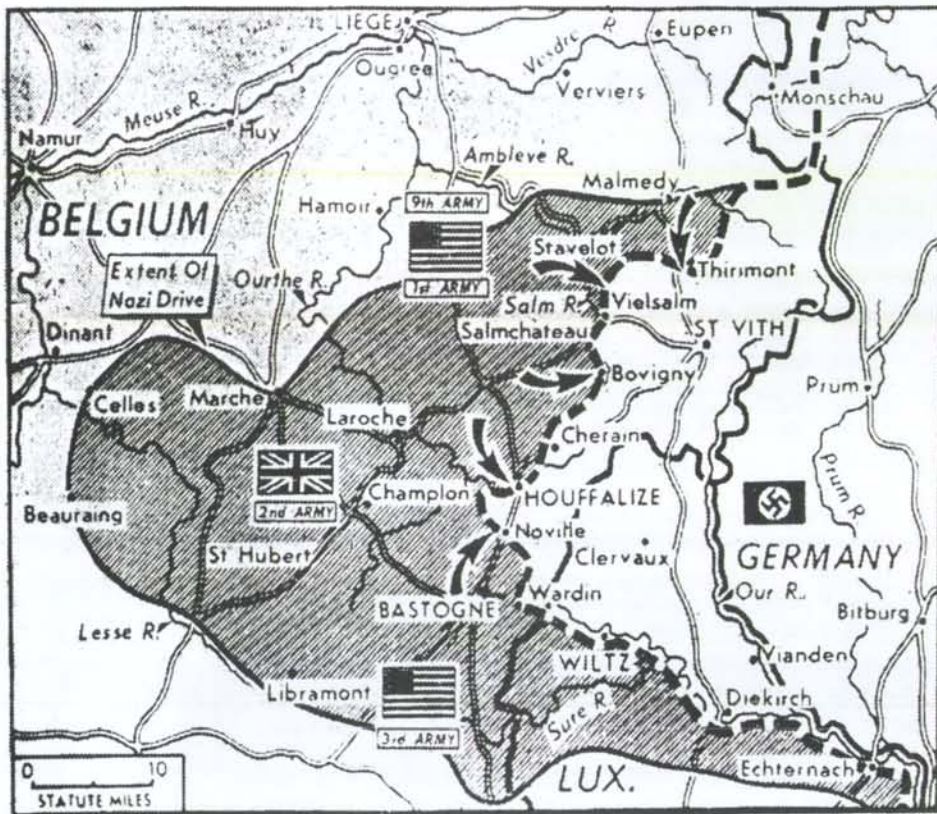
History has judged that the Sherman was a good tank, but not a great one. However, lessons learned from the Sherman set the stage for later generations of American tanks that, in time, dominated the battlefield. ■

Made your reservations yet for the Reunion? Complete details regarding the Reunion are elsewhere in this issue. We hope you are making plans to join us.

**September 23-26, 1999
Newport News, Virginia**

1st Army in Houffalize; 3d Takes Reich Towns

[The following reprint appeared in Thunder from Heaven, the publication of the 17th Airborne Division. It was reprinted from a Tuesday, January 16, 1945, issue of The Boston Daily Globe.]



AMERICAN 'GAINS' CONTINUE--The German salient in Belgium and Luxembourg flattened today under Allied blows (see arrows), as the Third Army gained southwest of Houffalize. First Army patrols entered Houffalize and other First Army Forces beat their way toward St. Vith. Shaded areas show territory recaptured by Allied. (AP Wirephoto Map)

Paris, Jan 15 (AP)--The United States 1st Army drove into Houffalize in the heart of the Belgian Bulge today and opened an all-out attack that carried to within six miles of St. Vith as a new 3d Army assault in Germany overran three towns.

The 1st Army's 2d Armored Division Smashed more than a mile down the highway into the outskirts of Houffalize and a front dispatch said the doughboys were battling less than a mile from the center of that communications junction.

The United States 3d Army, lashing out from the south, sent an armored column and elements of the 101st Airborne Division in advances of a half-mile to a mile to within 4-1/2 miles of Houffalize.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges threw at least six divisions into the drive on St. Vith--only four miles from the Reich border--shredding the Salm River line, overrunning eight or more towns and drawing up an assault arc six to nine miles from that major highway and rail center on the north, west and southwest.

With the Belgian Bulge now no more than a bump the 3d Army swung out east of the Moselle River in Germany between Luxembourg and the Saar Basin.

In advances of more than a mile and a half, the 3d captured three towns--Butzdorf, Nennig and Wies, the latter five miles inside Germany just east of the Luxembourg frontier.

The main force of the United States 1st Army attack veered sharply eastward as the sector west of Houffalize was virtually emptied of Germans, while the 3d Army sought to balk any stand based on Houffalize by denting the enemy's strong Luxembourg mountain positions. ■

740TH TANK BATTALION MEMORIAL DEDICATED

Both **ROBERT FLECKENSTEIN** and **HARRY MILLER** sent us a picture and press release regarding the 740th Tank Battalion Memorial dedicated in April, 1999, in Neufchateau, Belgium.

The stone monument will bear the names of those 43 who were killed in action along with the names of 278 men who returned.

Approximately 100 veterans and members of their families attended the dedication ceremonies.

The 740th is credited with stopping the German Panzer 1st SS Division commanded by Jochen Peiper in its furthers advance at Stoumont Station. ■

[The photo at the right shows the dedication ceremonies in Neufchateau, Belgium, in April, 1999.]



106TH INFANTRY DIVISION 591ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION BATTERY C

By Eugene Morell

Having relieved the 2nd Division near St. Vith, Belgium on December 10, 1944, we spent several days firing our 105mm howitzers at unseen enemy without receiving any return fire. This had been a rest area for the 2nd Division and was to be an indoctrination to combat for the green troops of the 106th Infantry Division.

Most of us were young men. I had just turned 19 in October. We were having a good time in our cozy little shacks which had been built by the 2nd Division men. Each shack had four bunks and a wood stove and each howitzer was just outside the shack entrance. Two five man crews operated the howitzer. One crew for days and the other for nights. There were four howitzers all in line and situated behind a sloping hill just on the edge of the Village of Steffeshausen, Belgium. We found out later that our division should have been covering a five mile front but instead we were spread out over a 27-mile front, this being a supposed rest area.

Just before dawn on December 16, we were called out for a fire mission. The five of us ran out to the gun just in time to be greeted by incoming artillery fire. We each started performing our duties in firing back at the unseen enemy. Of course we had to urge to find cover but kept following the orders for aiming and loading for what seemed like an eternity. We stayed at Steffeshausen until the evening of December 17 and were firing the guns continuously, not knowing that this was the start of the largest battle of World War II and that we were right in the middle of it. We had no idea what was happening to the other two regiments of the 106th Division. My battalion, the 591st Field Artillery, was in support of the 424th Infantry Regiment.

Just at dusk on December 17, we learned that the enemy was in the process of surrounding us and that we had to move out in order to avoid being captured. My Battery C stayed and fired covering fire for Batteries A and B while they withdrew along a secondary road which was the only road not in possession of the enemy and only 300 yards from German infantry. Number two gun was stuck in the frozen ground and although the crew worked hard to get it free, we had to leave it and take our turn along the secondary road after dark in convoy trucks towing howitzers.

We reunited with A and B Batteries at Burg Reuland, proceeding to Gruffingen, digging the howitzers in and continued firing. We were constantly under enemy artillery fire all day at Gruffingen. We were losing ground and on December 21st. We moved to Braunlauf during the night. This same night the enemy broke through at St. Vith, threatening our flank. We moved to Commastran at daybreak the next day and our C Battery was again left to cover withdrawal of the infantry. We fired a lot of rounds and they withdrew safely, partly because of the fog. On December 22 we were told that we were surrounded and in danger of being captured and also learned that two of our regiments had been captured after running out of ammo and supplies, and trapped in the woods, having lost contact with each other and of division. Each regiment commander had decided to surrender to save lives and without knowing the other regiment was doing the same. This left the 424th Regiment with our 591st Artillery Battalion still fighting but low on ammo and

equipment. Our guns were positioned at the edge of the woods and aiming across a clearing. Because of the possibility of being captured we were ordered to deposit all of our souvenirs of German origin into a hole that was dug especially for this reason and to be buried.

We ended the day low on ammo and with C rations again--mostly beans--for supper. We joked about not having to worry about being low on ammo after eating beans for the last few days. If our guns ran out we could shoot back at the enemy but were hoping it wouldn't come to that. We kept the guns silent that night but were ordered to use up all the ammo in a great barrage the next morning. Then hooked our guns to the trucks and rode to the main road which was lined on both sides with disabled tanks and vehicles still smoking from the battle that had just taken place. There were dead soldiers from both sides along the road and as we stopped by a log building, we dismounted and walked over to a tarpaulin lying on the ground and it was covered with bodies of paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division. It was a touching scene as they lay there side-by-side in two neat rows--all young men.

Up until then we had seen a lot of dead men from both sides and were becoming accustomed to the sight. Somehow the sight of these men lying there together, who had lost their lives while helping to clear this road for our escape, remained with us as we crossed the Salm River at Vielsalm on our way to Ville for regrouping. ■

A GREAT BIG WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Response to our Associate Member offer has resulted in over 100 new members. Hopefully, over time, we can influence these new members to carry on the work we have endeavored to do: **seeing that the Battle of the Bulge is never forgotten.**

We've really been quite fortunate lately in recruiting new members. Several of our members have been very instrumental in this good fortune:

- Kent Stephens (Golden Gate Chapter President) has been providing VBOB information to those who served in the 26th Infantry Division with noticeable results. Thanks, Kent.

- Former VBOB Treasurer Pete Leslie has been extremely successful in forming chapters in New Jersey and the surrounding areas. This has resulted in approximately 200 new members. Great work, Pete.

Many other members have been instrumental in finding new members and we are grateful to each and every one of you.

The work is not done: we need each and every member to make the effort to find a new member or form a chapter (or chapters) in their area. We can help you with this. Just let us know of your interest and we'll provide you with materials to get you started.

If you're going to your unit reunion drop us a note, we'll send you some membership applications to take along. ■

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL...

to see if your dues are due. Date above your last name is date they were due. ■

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn is proud to offer a full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army. You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000

units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Units were researched in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. The unit insignias shown are also those used in the design of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Table dedicated and on view in the Garrison Library at Ft Meade, MD (open Mon & Wed 12:30-3:00 PM. The requests to date have been overwhelming, therefore we would request that you allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery.

A Special Certificate is available to spouses or children of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge or who died of wounds received in the Battle of the Bulge. The individual request should have the date and place of death and be certified by the family requestor or by a buddy who was present. Multiple copies of the same certificate may be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren. Rank or command during the Bulge is preferred. It will be abbreviated to the WWII or three character standard. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to **place your name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit. **The cost of the certificate is \$15.00 postpaid.**

Unfortunately we do not have any more frames available at this time. John Bowen is presently trying to arrange with other suppliers who will produce these special sizes in quantities of 100. This may result in a higher frame cost. Our previous order had to be for 500 frames which took over three years to sell and resulted in the non use of a garage where they were stored. We will keep you posted.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. I have enclosed a check for \$15.00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

First Name _____	MI _____	Last Name _____	Serial Number _____
Organization: Company, Battalion and/or Regt, Division _____			Rank (Optional) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Killed in Action _____ date _____	Location _____ place _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Died of Wounds _____ date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> POW _____ dates _____ Camp _____

MAILING INFORMATION:

Name _____	Street Address _____	Apt No. _____
City _____	State _____	Zip + 4 Code _____
Telephone Number (In case we need to call you) _____		Signature & date _____

Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.00. Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129. Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533, Certificate Chairman. 01/08/99

VBOB QUARTERMASTER

August 1999

Please ship the following items to:

Name: _____ (first) _____ (last) _____ (phone #-will call only if there is a problem)

Address: _____ (no.) _____ (street) _____ (city) _____ (state) _____ (zip)

Item Description	Price Each	Quantity	Total Price
VBOB Logo Patch - 3"	\$ 4.50		\$
VBOB Logo Patch - 4"	\$ 5.50		\$
VBOB Logo Decal - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Windshield Logo - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Logo Stickers (10) - 1 1/4"	10 for \$1.25		\$
Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only	\$ 10.00		\$
Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch (Navy only) Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL XXXL (XXL and XXXL - see prices)	\$ 25.00 (S, M, L and XL) \$ 26.00 for XXL \$ 27.00 for XXXL		\$
VBOB Logo Lapel Pin - 1/2"	\$ 5.00		\$
Miniature VBOB Logo Medal w/Ribbon (pin on type)	\$ 8.50		\$
VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing	\$ 3.00		\$
★ NEW ITEM ★ VBOB Tote Bag - 18" x 15" natural (off-white) color tote bag with navy handles and large navy VBOB logo	\$ 8.00		\$

Only Cash, Check or Money Order Accepted

Make Checks Payable to "VBOB" - Mail Orders to VBOB-QM, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129

DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER MONIES WITH QM PAYMENT

Shipping and Handling:

\$0.00 to \$5.00 - \$ 2.00

\$5.01 to \$10.00 - \$ 3.00

\$10.01 and over - \$ 4.00

Please add an additional \$1.00 to regular shipping and handling for all items shipped outside the USA.

Cost of Items: \$ _____

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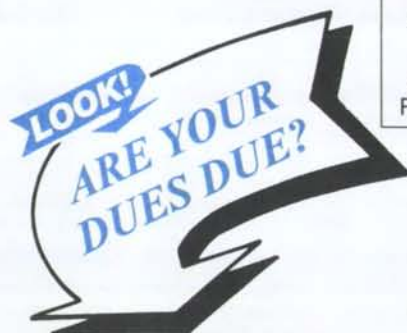


VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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COMPLETE DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

Annual Dues \$15

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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☐ New Member ☐ Renewal - Member # _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaign(s) _____

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 - Division _____

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

Make check or money order payable to VBOB
and mail with this application to above address:

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)